Meralco: All we wanted was 30-centavo increase

STORY ON PAGE A2

Dance blast: Terror act or drunken spree?

By PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—"A day of tragedy, a day of infamy."

This was what the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker turned into, according to Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, who denounced Wednesday night's grenade explosion during a

DANCE/ A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

It's back to Karen and Gina

By C. D. Balana

NOW it's back to "Karen and Gina."

McGeorge Foods Corp., holder of the McDonald's franchise in the country, has

IT'S/ A20

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph | Friday, May 3, 2002 ★★ 64 pages / 6 sections / vol.17 / no. 144 P15 | website: www.inq7.net

Summit starts on sour note

GMA accused of destroying democratic opposition

By Cynthia D. Balana, Dona Pazzibugan and Michael Lim Ubac

A SOUR note mars the country's first-ever political summit aimed at "putting negative politics behind" as it begins today at the Manila Hotel. The Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP), the country's biggest opposition party, is boycotting it.

The Partido Demokratikong Pilipino-Laban (PDP-Laban) is also staying away from the three-day summit that House Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., president of the ruling Lakas, has initiated.

In a statement, De Venecia said the summit would focus on eliminating turncoatism, approving state financing for political parties and strengthening the civil service, military and judiciary.

He had earlier said that the summit would also discuss proposals for amendments in the Constitution.

At an emergency meeting, LDP leaders yesterday decided to stay away from the political summit to protest the "repressive policies and terror tactics" of the Macapagal administration.

The LDP was particularly alarmed over intelligence reports that Sen. Edgardo Angara, LDP president, and Sen. Panfilo Lacson would be arrested had disturbances marred the rallies on Labor Day.

Angara said the plan to arrest him and Lacson and the blockades that the police set up to prevent workers from Southern Tagalog and Central Luzon from joining the rallies in Manila pushed the LDP to the decision not to attend the summit.

"We cannot put a stamp of legitimacy on the acts of repression and the

SUMMIT/ A20

REUTERS

THE GREENING OF BEAUTY PAGEANTS

Beauties from all over the country with a thing for the environment are candidates of the Miss Philippines pageant 2002. The winner will represent the country in the Miss Earth contest in October.

Gloria: We passed test of country's stability

By Carlito Pablo

THE ADMINISTRATION surmounted the "last hurdle" to achieve political stability with the peaceful conduct of rallies on May 1, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said.

"We have passed a test of the country's stability. It is the last hurdle," an elated President said over Bombo Radyo.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said Ms Macapagal "is on a roll", and that the country "is now way over the hump."

In a phone interview, Golez said political groups and personalities wanting to unseat the President should now focus on the 2004 elections as it was the remaining constitutional means to achieve their goal.

"That's how it should be," Golez said of the coming electoral contest.

Ms Macapagal said her administration emerged "victorious" after May 1 because "speculations about the explosion of a social revolution, etcetera, etcetera" did not materialize.

GLORIA/ A20

Filipinos disenchanted with democracy—UP survey

By Jose V. Abueva
Contributor

ANALYSIS

LEADERS attending (or boycotting) today's political summit need to know how Filipinos nationwide think about the country's political system.

Well, Filipinos are becoming disenchanted with our kind of democracy and system of government. They tell us so, quietly but clearly, in a national survey the author conducted for the UP Center for Leadership, Citizenship and Democracy last November. The survey is based on interviews of 1,200 citizens 18 years and older, with a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent.

To the statement "On the whole, I am satisfied with the way democracy works in our country," 42 percent disagreed and 34 percent agreed, yielding a margin of minus 8 percent. In the more politically conscious and informed National Capital Region, 57 percent disagreed and 25 percent agreed, for a margin of minus 32 percent.

To the statement "I am proud of the system of government of the Philippines," 43 percent disagreed and 32 percent agreed, for a margin of minus 11 percent. In the NCR, almost 60 percent disagreed, while only 21 percent agreed, yielding a margin of minus 39 percent.

While 72 percent of our survey respondents nationwide still affirm that

FILIPINOS/ A21

RP, US snap at Sabaya: Don't threaten us

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau
and Martin P. Marfil, *in Manila*

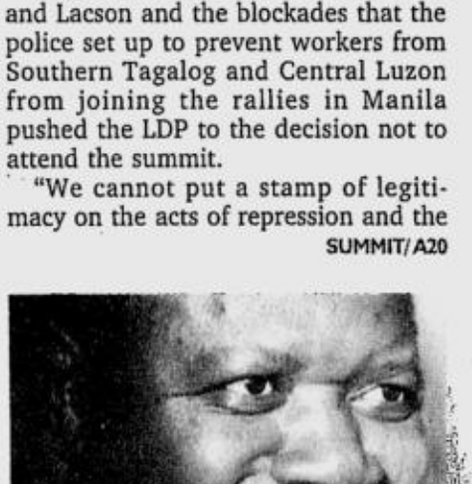
ZAMBOANGA CITY—"We don't entertain threats."

This was the brusque reaction of US forces undergoing training in the country yesterday, in the wake of Abu Sabaya's reported threat to kill American hostages Martin and Gracia Burnham.

Malacañang's reaction was the same. "As a matter of policy we do not respond to the statements of terrorists," acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable told reporters yesterday.

But the new Armed Forces spokesperson, Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta, said that while the military still needed to verify the report, "we are taking this threat seriously, we are studying the possibilities."

RP/ A5



GEOFFREY NYAROTA: Press freedom is a daily struggle in Zimbabwe.

Arrest awaits press freedom awardee

By Donna S. Cueto and Christine Herrera

OBVIOUSLY, his country does not appreciate the award that Geoffrey Nyarota receives today from the Unesco: The Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize for 2002.

A warrant of arrest has been issued for Nyarota when he returns home to Zimbabwe on Monday.

Journalist-delegates to the two-day Unesco World Press Freedom Day International Conference on Terrorism and Media led by Unesco Director General Koichiro Matsuura yesterday called on the Zimbabwean government to respect the freedom of the press, drop the charges and stop harassing Nyarota. Two of his reporters have already been arrested.

Nyarota, 50, editor in chief of the only independent newspaper in Zimbabwe, The Daily News, said he was not afraid of returning to his country and continuing to advocate and practice press freedom.

Nyarota and his reporters, Llody Mudiwa and Collin Chiwanza, are charged with criminal defamation for stories that claimed government officials had falsified voting results in the

ARREST/ A20

RP fighter jet explodes in air over Pampanga; pilot killed

By Tonette Orejas and Jun Malig
PDI Central Luzon Desk

MABALACAT, Pampanga—Henry Velasquez saw the aircraft explode twice in the air and disintegrate. The 42-year-old resident of Barangay San Joaquin said he saw the plane's underbelly hit the roof of several houses before coming to a stop in the garden of the Mabalacat Elementary School in Barangay Poblacion.

BLUE Diamond F-5A jets, the same aircraft that crashed in Mabalacat.

The house of Luz de la Cruz, located behind the school, was one of those damaged. An hour after the crash, her children were still shaking in fear.

Eulogio Medina, Department of Education property custodian in this town, said the jet ripped off the roof of eight schoolrooms and the school fences. The crash burned four of the rooms, he added.

An ordinary summer morning turned into a nightmare yesterday after a Philippine Air Force F-5 attack jet crashed into a school compound here at about 10:35 a.m.—killing its pilot, injuring at least 11 residents, and damaging at least 33 houses. The plane was returning to Clark Air Base after participating in the Balikatan 02-2 military exercise.

Brig. Gen. Paulito Durano, chief of the PAF's 5th Fighter Wing, identified the pilot as Capt. Daniel Policarpio,

RP/ A20

BITS and pieces are all that remain of an F-5 fighter jet that crumbled up in the air before hitting the ground and wrecking classrooms in the Mabalacat North District School. DENNIS SABANGAN

Second FRONT PAGE

'All we wanted was 30¢ hike'

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE MANILA Electric Co. said yesterday data it had submitted to the Energy Regulatory Commission erroneously showed a bigger rate of increase than the actual hike of only 30 centavos per kilowatt-hour it is seeking.

"Only some of those figures would be used as the basis for new unbundled power rates," Meralco treasurer Rafael Andrada said.

According to a study made by the energy department on Meralco's proposal for unbundled rates, the power firm asked for, among other things, increases in:

- The items included in the rate base or the assets used in providing electricity services.
- The cap for systems loss (amount of electricity lost without recovering the cost) from 9.5 percent to 11.5 percent.
- The allowed return on rate base (RORB) from 12 percent to 15.97 percent.

These, the energy department said, added up to a rate increase of P1.12 per kilowatt-hour.

"This is not what we asked for," Andrada said in a media forum at the Holiday Inn Manila.

"All we wanted was to raise our rates by 30 centavos per kWh, as we have been petitioning since 2000," he said.

Andrada said the data submitted was mainly for a database that the ERC was building on distribution utilities and electric cooperatives.

"The figures should not be taken together as the amount of a rate increase," Andrada said.

At the same forum, ERC chair Fe Barin affirmed that the uniform filing requirements for unbundled rates submitted by Meralco included data intended for building a database on distributors.

"The law mandates the unbundling of rates and this is what we are doing," Barin said.

Barin added the ERC could no longer act on Meralco's 2000 petition as this was based on a "bundled" billing system.

Unbundling refers to the itemization of consolidated power charges into generation, transmission, distribution, supply and other components.

"The ERC told us to use the parameters they set and we did," Andrada said, to explain why Meralco submitted the data it did.

Asked about the 15.97 percent RORB Meralco is asking for in its unbundling petition, Andrada said: "If we believe that consumers will not pay for this, we will ask for something less."

The RORB would form the basis for determining the amount of the power rate increase.

Andrada said that in reality, Meralco wants lower power rates to encourage consumers to use more electricity.

"The law allows only a 12 percent RORB, but our highest was only 11 percent in 1994," Andrada said. "In the last 10 years, we averaged about six percent."

Meralco reported an RORB of 3.9 percent as of end-2001. It needs to maintain at least eight percent to meet its agreements with key lenders.

At the same time, Meralco defended its two independent power producer (IPP) contracts, saying these give consumers access to a much cheaper electricity than that sold by the state-owned National Power Corp.

Andrada said electricity rates could go down by 60 centavos per kilowatt-hour if the two IPP's plants were allowed to operate at 85 percent capacity.

Due to "systems constraints," which Andrada said was not Meralco's fault, the plants—one owned by Quezon Power and the other by First Gas—are operating at 30-60 percent levels.

The Meralco executive pointed out that it buys electricity from Quezon Power at P3.80 per kWh and from First Gas at P3.40 per kWh, against Napocor's rate of P4.20 per kWh.

With Christine O. Avendaño

Collective negotiations in gov't suspended

MALACAÑANG has imposed a moratorium on negotiations and payments of collective negotiation agreements (CNAs) of government employees effective last March.

This was stated in a memorandum dated March 19, which was issued to Cabinet members by Cabinet Secretary Ricardo Saludo, and which the Confederation of Independent Unions in the Public Sector (CFIU) said did not go through any consultation with government employees.

Both the CFIU and Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales yesterday described the Palace memo as "illegal and invalid" and vowed to question this before the Civil Service Commission.

In his memo to the Cabinet secretaries, Saludo said that Trade Secretary Mar Roxas had raised the issue on CNAs at the Cabinet meeting held on March 19.

Without explaining the issues raised by Roxas on the CNAs, Saludo noted that it was "stressed" during the Cabinet meeting the need for them to come out with a "policy pronouncement" on the matter.

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Moro rebs agree to stop using land mines

THE MORO Islamic Liberation Front has agreed to stop using land mines in its insurgency campaign, after a meeting with an international humanitarian organization.

The MILF has given a "clear and definitive commitment... to a total and unconditional ban on anti-personnel mines understood to be victim-activated," said the humanitarian group, Geneva Call, in a statement.

The group, based in Geneva, Switzerland, is a new international non-government organization dedicated to the elimination of land mines through dialogue.

Agence France Presse reported that MILF vice chair for military affairs Mohammad Murad signed a "deed of commitment" barring the MILF from using land mines and binding the 12,500-strong group to destroying its stockpile of the explosives.

Geneva Call said the commitment from the MILF marked the first time an international group sealed "a new mechanism for adherence and accountability of rebel groups to humanitarian norms."

The agreement came after a Geneva Call mission, led by retired Indian general Dipankar Banerjee, visited the southern Philippines early this month for talks with MILF leaders, including Murad.

The group said that "because of last-minute constraints placed on the non-Filipino members of the mission," they were unable to independently verify charges by the Philippine military that the MILF was using land mines in its campaign to set up a separate state.

The MILF even agreed to take further steps by setting up a verification mechanism, clearing any unexploded mines and training its personnel in disposing of the explosives.

No deadline was set for the MILF to comply.

In the past, the MILF used land mines mainly to secure the perimeters of their camps and outposts.

The Philippine government signed a ceasefire agreement with the MILF last year ahead of peace talks, but skirmishes still take place and both sides often accuse the other of violating the truce. ***AFP***

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RP, US tell Sabaya: Don't threaten us

From page A1

Lt. Col. John Fleming, spokesperson for the RP-US Combined Information Bureau, told reporters in this city that US troops "don't entertain such threats coming from a local terrorist." But he quickly added that their main role here was to support the AFP by assisting and advising Filipino soldiers in the Balikatan exercise.

"We are not here to chase this Abu Sayyaf. It's purely AFP matters and only the US Embassy has the right to say something about this kidnapping and (the) threats of the local terrorist," he added.

But in Manila, Mabanta said there were reasons to doubt Sabaya's claims. "There are three points that we would like to stress here regarding the allegations of Mr. Sabaya. First of all, we are still verifying the authenticity of the (identity of the) person behind the radio broadcast."

"Secondly, if indeed it was Abu Sabaya or Aldam Tilao, we know for a fact that he does not control or command (a unit). He has been relegated and is now an outcast of the group," he added.

"And thirdly, if indeed it is true, we will not be cowed by any such threat, we will continue our operations . . . all the more, we will pursue and try to rescue the last three remaining hostages."

The Burnhams have been held captive since May 27, while Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap was abducted on June 2.

All-out war

In Malacañang, Afable said there was no change in the military's pursuit operations. "We're not responding to their threat and we're not taking any action in relation to their threat," he said. "The policy is still all-out (military) operations and we cannot be distracted from this policy."

He said the campaign will not let up until the Burnhams and Yap are rescued.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez appealed to the Abu Sayyaf not to harm the three hostages, but added that the government was sticking to its policy against ransom talks.

"We appeal to them not to harm the Burnhams because this is against the tenets of Islam," Golez said.

"The military is there because of the innocent victims . . . We ask the Abu Sayyaf to unconditionally release the Burnhams (and Yap)," he said.

Asked whether the government was "worried" that the Abu Sayyaf will make good its threat, Afable said the military will not turn back from its operations.

"We will not respond to whatever the terrorists say and the operations will continue until the objectives are accomplished," he insisted.

In his news briefing, Mabanta said he had been coordinating with the office of the Southern Command chief, Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu.

"We haven't really confirmed if (Sabaya) is the person (on the radio). What we can say is that there is (an intensified) effort to locate and finally rescue the hostages," Mabanta said.

"In these times, when pinpointing the enemy is the name of the game, propaganda plays a big role," Mabanta said, as he tried to explain Sabaya's actions.

"(But) what we are saying is, does he have command of a group? Can he still order (a unit)? Will he still be followed? We are questioning his ability to give out orders," he said.

Hapilon's group

Cimatu said at a news briefing in this city that he doubted whether it was indeed Sabaya who was interviewed. He said the military believes the hostages are not with Sabaya, but with the group led by Isnilon Hapilon.

Lt. Col. David Maxwell, outgoing US adviser and 1st Special Forces Battalion commander, also belittled Sabaya's threat.

But Maxwell said they "certainly want all the three hostages—Ediborah Yap and the Burnhams—to be returned safely and we hope this will happen soon."

Maxwell left Zamboanga yesterday afternoon for his next assignment in Hawaii. He spent three months in Basilan and served as US adviser. He was the overall commander for the 160 US trainors deployed in Basilan.

Call bluff

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a former AFP chief of staff, urged the Macapagal administration to call Sabaya's bluff.

In a statement, Biazon noted that Sabaya in asking the government to look for "dead bodies" was "designed to be a threat, rather than ... information that the hostages are already dead to hold (military forces) at bay."

Biazon said that the major factor restraining "joint and combined combat operations" was the fact that the hostages are still alive.

"(But) if the rescue force can conclusively establish that the Burnham couple is already dead, then this restraint should be removed and the force should unleash the full utilization of assets and resources in terms of manpower and equipment against the Abu Sayyaf and destroy the bandit group once and for all," Biazon said.

He noted that Sabaya had also been careful in stating that holding the hostages was more advantageous to the bandit group, compared to any amount of money they may raise through ransom. ***With reports from Dona Pazzibugan, Rocky Nazareno, AP and AFP***

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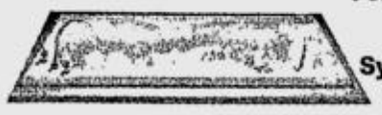
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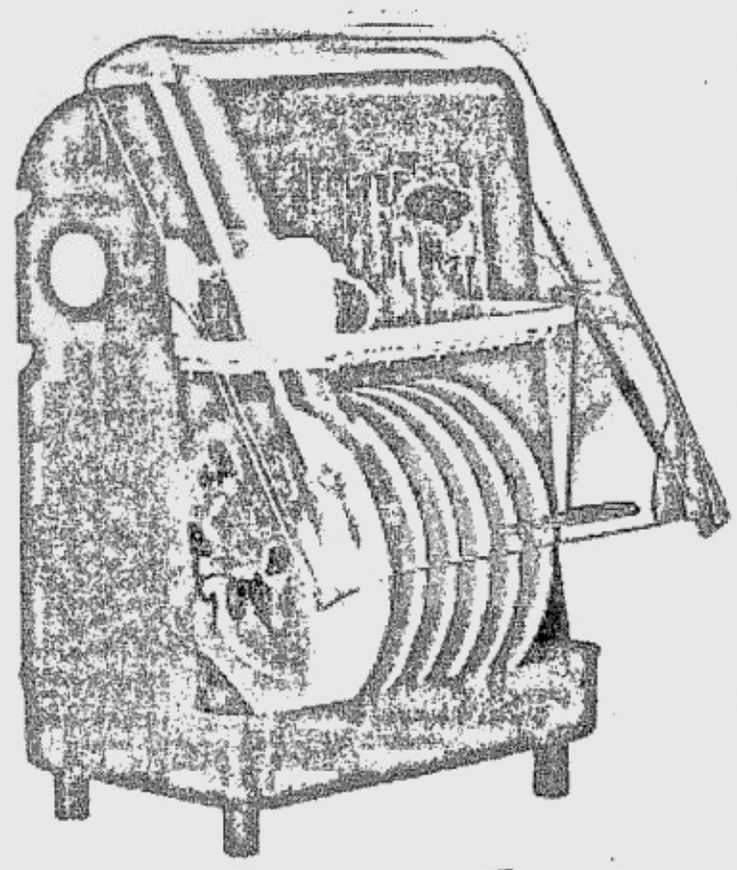
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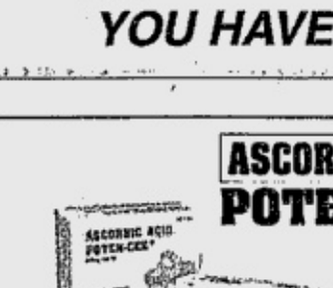
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Journalists call on gov'ts to respect press freedom

JOURNALIST-DELEGATES to the World Press Freedom Day Conference on Terrorism and Media yesterday unanimously adopted a resolution calling on governments and parties to conflicts all over the world to respect press freedom.

As the two-day Unesco-sponsored conference ended at the Westin Philippine Plaza, the journalists asserted the media's fundamental role of meeting the "public's right to know," including issues relating to terrorism.

"The threat of terrorism should not be used as an excuse to impose restrictions on freedom of expression and of the media, or on freedom of information," the journalists said.

Among rights the participants want governments and other parties to observe are journalists' rights to editorial independence, to protect confidential sources, to information held by public bodies, to freedom of movement, and to privacy of communications.

"Any strategy to address the threat of terrorism must promote greater respect for freedom of expression and of the media, rather than imposing restrictions on these fundamental rights," the journalists said.

The participants also condemned the killing and harassment of journalists reporting on terrorism and conflicts.

"States should devote sufficient resources to preventing attacks on journalists, to investigating such attacks and to bringing those responsible to justice without delay," the resolution said.

The journalists also said that states and parties to conflicts should never allow their agents to pose as journalists or attempt to use journalists as agents.

They welcomed the Charter for the Safety of Journalists Working in War Zones or Dangerous Areas, adopted by concerned organizations in Paris on March 8, 2002 and the Safety Charter, adopted in Montreal in 1992.

They also advocated trainings on ethical issues related to reporting on terrorism and establishing a fund to assist under-resourced media organizations and freelance journalists gain access to safety training and equipment. ***Christine Herrera***

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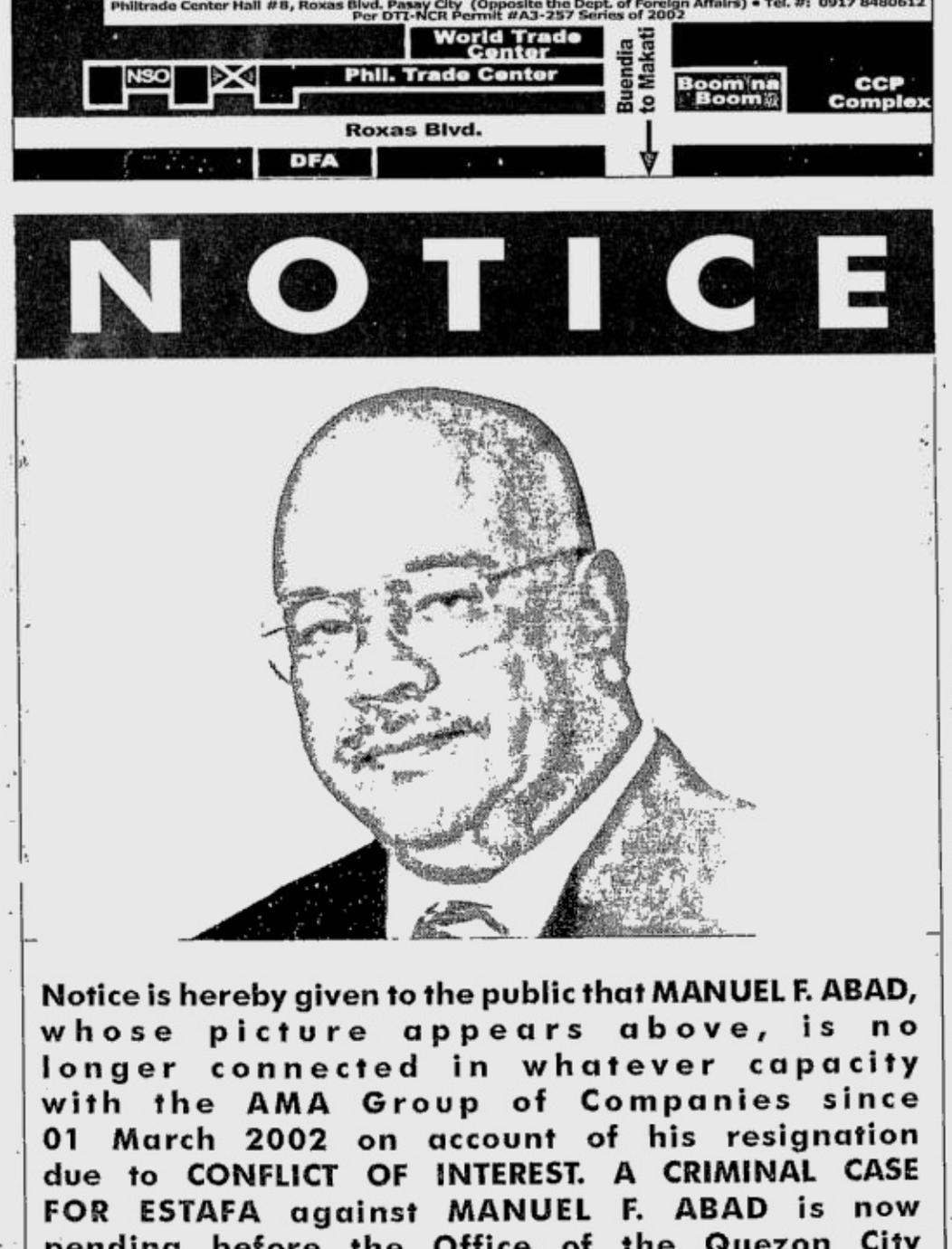

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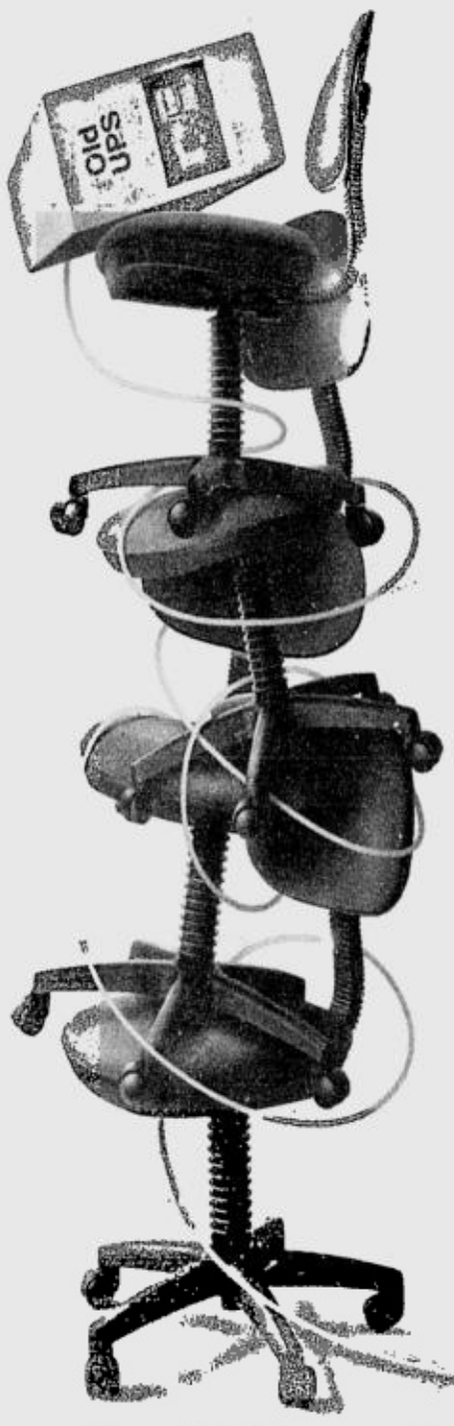

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Notice is hereby given to the public that MANUEL F. ABAD, whose picture appears above, is no longer connected in whatever capacity with the AMA Group of Companies since 01 March 2002 on account of his resignation due to CONFLICT OF INTEREST. A CRIMINAL CASE FOR ESTAFA against MANUEL F. ABAD is now pending before the Office of the Quezon City Prosecutor per I.S. Number 02-5832.

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'Neophyte terrorist' slain in Tarlac clash

By TJ Burgonio

THE TWO armed men who were believed to be planning a terrorist attack in Tarlac City on Labor Day had been sent on a "test mission" by an Islamic school in Pangasinan.

"These people were on a test mission in that part of Luzon. It was like a final test for their admission into the school," said Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina, Philippine National Police spokesperson, citing intelligence information.

One of the two, a certain Khalid, was killed when he reportedly engaged policemen in a gunfight in Barangay San Nicolas, Tarlac City, at around 12:30 a.m. on Wednesday. His companion, Omar Mayuno, was arrested.

Espina did not discount the possibility the two were part of a group planning large-scale attacks around the country on Labor Day.

Espina said investigators were gathering information on the suspects' school in Pangasinan, their organization, Haraka, and the group's alleged leader, Arab national Sheik Hamod.

"We're still determining what Haraka is and who the Arab national is," Espina said at a press briefing.

So far, police have established that Khalid and Mayuno were residents of Ipil, Zamboanga del Sur, and were Christians who had converted to Islam. They were reportedly attending the school of Islam in Pangasinan.

Recovered from the suspects were two homemade .38-cal. revolvers, four hand grenades and pamphlets on Islam.

Policemen went to Barangay San Nicolas after receiving calls from residents about the presence of two suspicious-looking men. Upon arriving, they were reportedly fired at by Khalid.

During initial interrogation, Mayuno admitted the two had planned to sow terror in the city on Labor Day.

Police are looking into the possible link of the two to persons who were arrested in Batangas and Davao del Sur on May 1 for possession of explosives.

"They may be connected," Espina said.

This time, Jinggoy has bleeding bottom

By Volt Contreras

FORMER San Juan mayor Jinggoy Estrada wants to be taken to another hospital yet again.

Estrada, 39, shares a detention suite with his father, deposed President Joseph Estrada, at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City. Both are charged with the non-bailable offense of plunder.

Since his detention just over a year now, Jinggoy has been rushed four times from the VMMC to the Makati Medical Center for a recurring heart ailment.

Yesterday, Estrada asked the Sandiganbayan to allow him to undergo treatment outside the VMMC again, claiming he is suffering from hematochezia (rectal bleeding).

"I have been experiencing on and off bleeding in my rectal area for about two weeks now," Estrada said in a motion asking the court to allow him to seek confinement at the San Juan Medical Center for 10 to 15 days.

The younger Estrada said he needs to be treated as soon as possible at the SJMC, per the recommendation of Dr. Larry Hocson, SJMC medical director and the Estradas' family physician.

It was Hocson, a general surgeon, who diagnosed Jinggoy's hematochezia, according to the motion.

In a phone interview, Hocson explained that hematochezia "is just a sign, not a disease in itself," and his patient needs to undergo a colonoscopy.

He said the VMMC does not have the equipment to perform the examination.

Jinggoy said he also intends to use the hospital stay to undergo a "major supervised weight reduction program... because I have been strongly gaining weight these past few days."

Unless he lost some pounds soon, his condition "could cause unfavorable adverse effects and complications to my health," he added.

The weight reduction program was recommended by another doctor, cardiologist Roberto Anastacio, Estrada said.

Like his son, the elder Estrada has repeatedly petitioned the courts regarding his own medical problems, mainly his arthritic knees.

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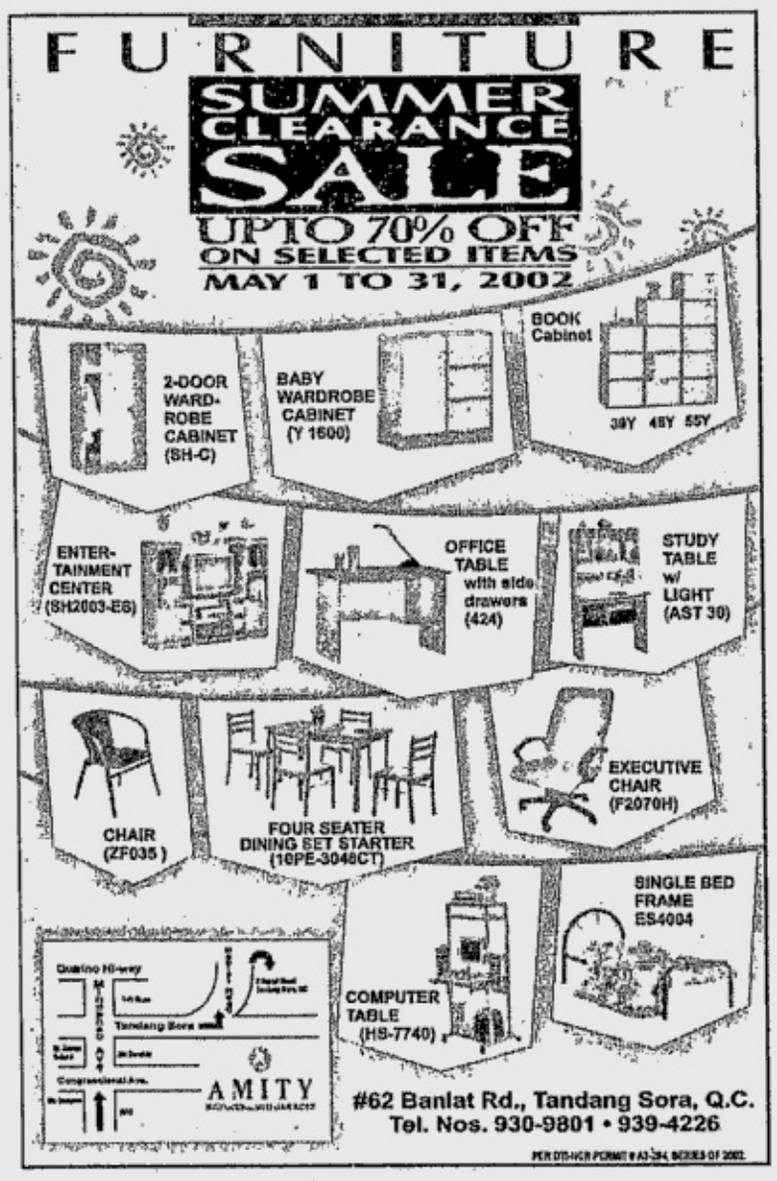

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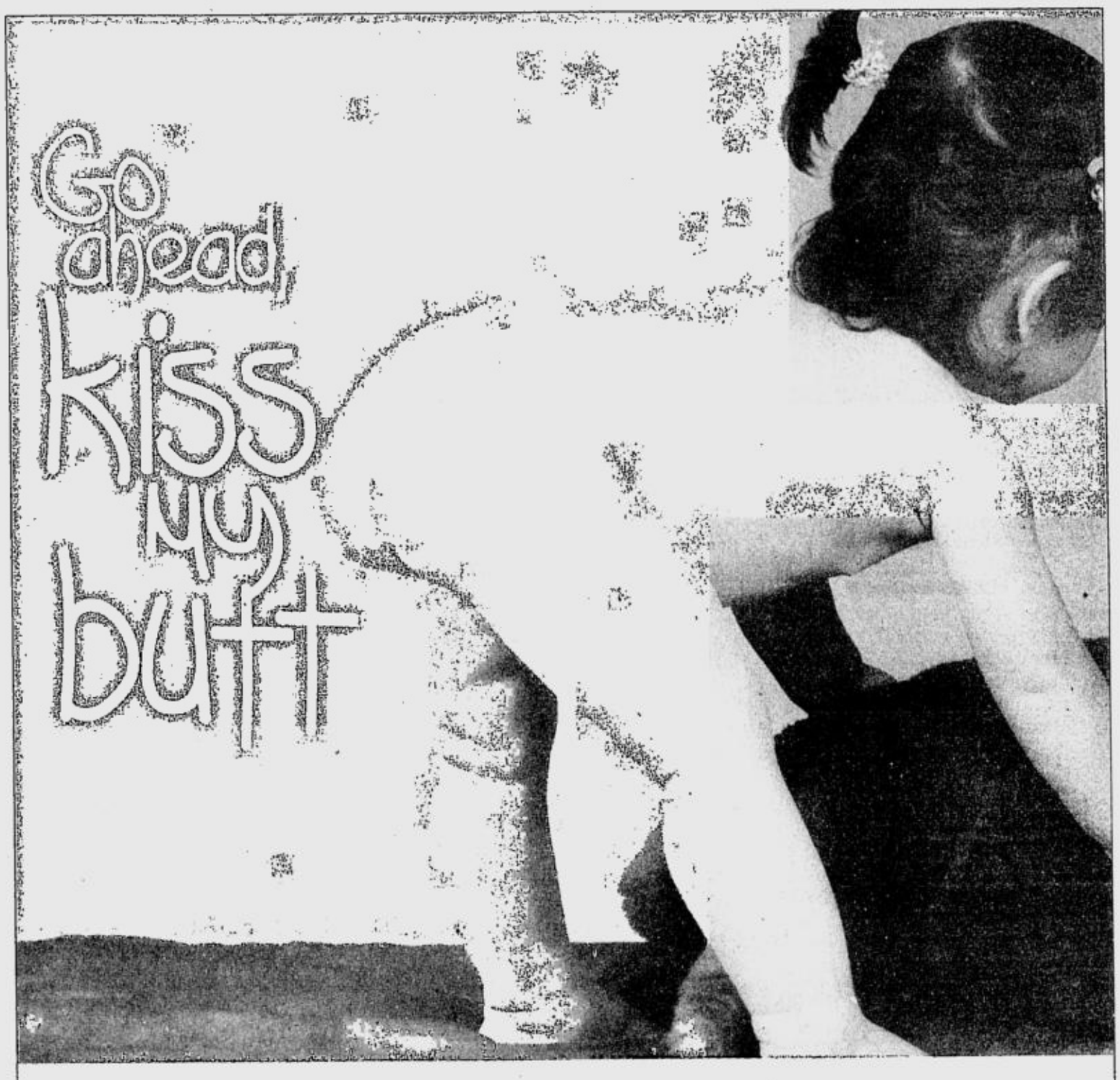

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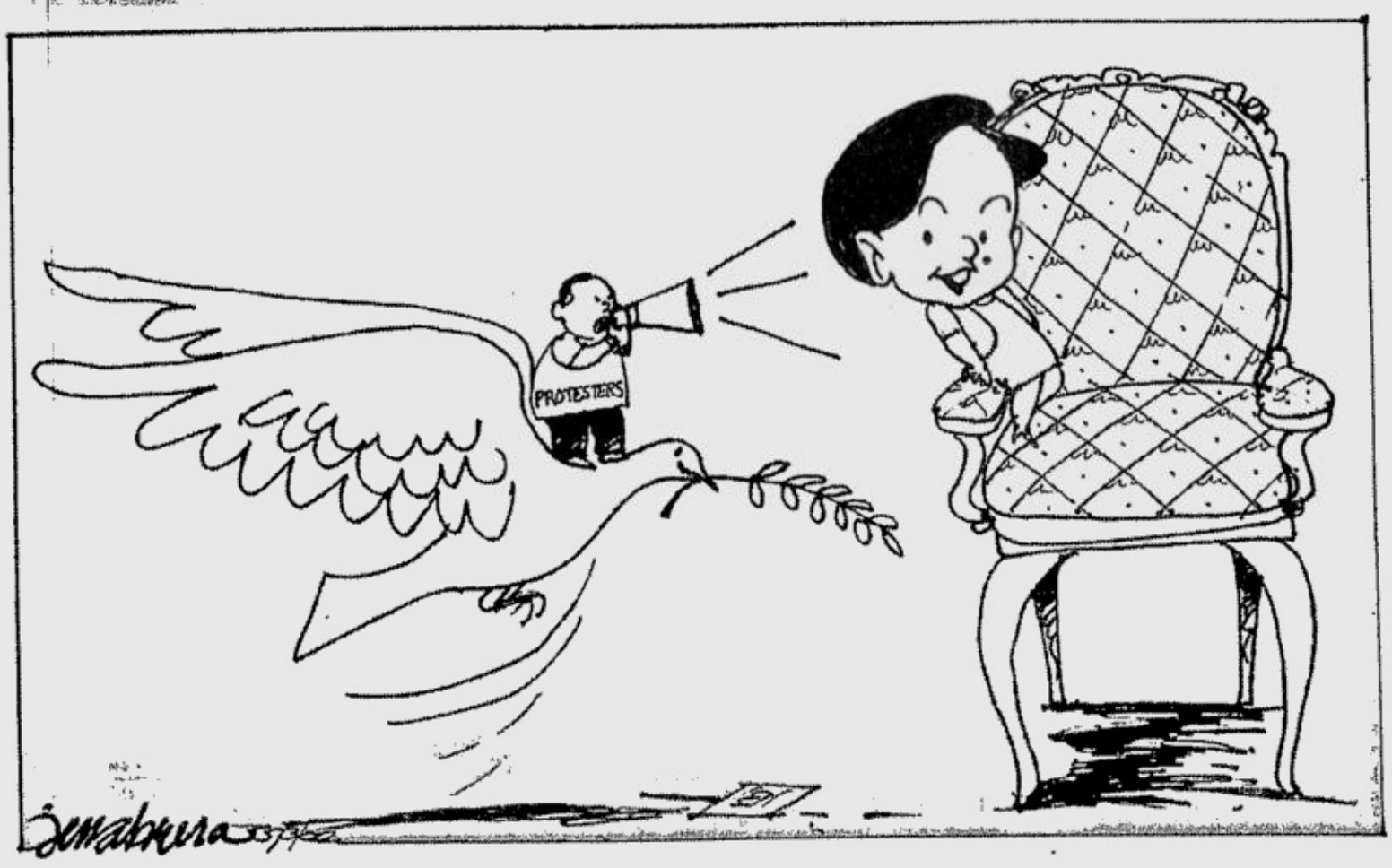


Sabaya's threat

EDITORIAL

AFTER ALL the terrible things it had done, it looked as if the Abu Sayyaf had exhausted its capacity to shock people and make them recoil in revulsion, horror and anger. However one call from its spokesperson to a radio station in Zamboanga City last Wednesday showed once again how well the group practices the craft of terrorism.

The government can "start looking for the dead bodies," Abu Sabaya announced after declaring that the Abu Sayyaf had closed the door to negotiations for the release of two American missionaries and a Filipino nurse the group has been holding hostage for almost a year now. He said the Abu Sayyaf decided to withdraw its offer to negotiate after the government flatly rejected it.

The Abu Sayyaf had earlier announced that it was willing to discuss a "last deal" with Presidential Adviser for Special Concerns Norberto Gonzales, Gov. Parouk Hussin of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and a former Malaysian senator. Malacañang spurned the offer, saying it was sticking to its policy of not negotiating with kidnappers particularly in regard to ransom payments.

Exhibiting the twisted logic typical of a criminal mind, Sabaya pointed out that the $2-million ransom his group was demanding was nothing compared to the billions of pesos being spent for the joint RP-US military exercises being conducted in Basilan. "It is up to them now to look for us," he taunted the participants in the Balikatan war exercises whose ultimate objective is to wipe out the Abu Sayyaf.

Anyone who looks at the Abu Sayyaf's record of cruelty and sadism will have to take this new threat seriously. The group has been known to carry out its most outrageous threats. For instance, in June last year it announced that it would give the head of another American hostage, Guillermo Sobero, as an Independence Day gift to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Weeks later, government troops found the severed head of Sobero. Several Filipinos the group had taken hostage while trying to evade pursuing troops have also been beheaded.

Still the situation is not completely hopeless. Sabaya himself has shown why. When asked if the Abu Sayyaf was ready to execute the American couple, Martin and Gracia Burnham, Sabaya conceded that "holding the hostages is more advantageous to us compared to the $2 million" it was demanding as ransom.

And how can keeping the hostages alive work to the Abu Sayyaf's advantage? For one thing, the self-styled Islamic revolutionary group believes the drawn-out hostage crisis is a continuing demonstration not only of the ineptness of the Philippine military but also of America's powerlessness in fighting Islamist terrorism. And to their own mind, this makes the Abu Sayyaf members bigger heroes not only at home but in the entire Muslim world. "The US superpower cannot do anything against us, what more the al-Qaida network?" Sabaya boasted.

The second reason is even more practical and compelling: they have to keep the hostages alive to stay alive themselves. They have used their hostages as "human shields" before to escape from tight situations, and they plan to continue to do so. Sabaya hinted as much when he said that if they perceive the odds to have turned badly against them, then they may have to "say goodbye" to the two Americans. In other words, the Abu Sayyaf leaders know that without their hostages, the military campaign is bound to intensify as government troops operate unhampered by the need to ensure the safety of the hostages.

If the choice is between money and their lives, it seems that even the bandits masquerading as freedom fighters will decide like their hostages do. This offers some hope that instead of picking up dead bodies, government troops will find living hostages.

Pedophile priests

FOREIGN COMMENT

THE PHENOMENON of pedophile priests is not just American. There are pedophiles in all societies and walks of life. Perhaps in the United States it has been more visible because there are better judicial mechanisms available and greater compensation is demanded by the victims, as well as more costly insurance cover for the dioceses and schools affected.

The Vatican has been striving to come up with a code of behavior of priests which finally recognizes the gravity of the offense and whose clarity lives up to the expectations of a modern democratic society.

At the same time the Vatican has been assessing the danger that priests pose to children, not as a remote possibility but as something that will happen again and again. ***Il Messaggero (Rome)***

QC to be transformed into a Garden City

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE ARTIST Malang, the nemesis of fake art, has a new advocacy: the environment. The popular painter is a frequent visitor of the Ninoy Aquino Park between North and Quezon Avenues because he likes the trees and the pond. But he is now alarmed at the deterioration of the park. He wrote a note that "something strange" is happening in the park. There are now residential houses inside the park. And the fish in the pond are diminishing. The restaurant in it has been closed.

Malang said he asked the guards what is going on and they replied that the houses were for employees of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. And that squatters were catching the *tilapia* in the pond. Is the Ninoy Aquino Park going to be the next housing project of the DENR? Malang asked. Will it go the way of the adjacent Quezon Memorial Park which has been turned into a flea market and a parking lot?

Malang also used to be a frequent visitor of the Quezon Memorial Park. Years ago, he jogged daily with his pals around the circle. They stopped when they were turned off by the growing commercialization and "concretization" of the park. They couldn't bear to see the trees and grass and open space of the park giving way to concrete for parking and for tents for vendors.

Malang is right of course. If the present trend continues, the green of both parks may be replaced by concrete and commercial establishments. The reason is that the Quezon Memorial Park is not funded by the government, national or local. It is supported by whatever its board of directors can raise from leases and rentals. So any proposal that will mean more earnings for the park is welcome. Shouldn't the Quezon City government finance and take over the upkeep of the park just across the street from its City Hall?

The Quezon Memorial Park, by the way, is the biggest park in Quezon City, which is a giant in area compared to its neighboring cities and municipalities. Manila is much smaller in area but it has the Rizal Park (not to mention the Muni Golf Links) where you can put five parks the size of the Quezon Memorial Park. Yet, Quezon City is not even funding its biggest park. There are other pocket parks but many of these, like the Fernando Park across Edsa from the Nepa-Q Market, are neglected.

As for the adjacent Ninoy Aquino Park, it is maintained by the Parks and Wildlife Office of the DENR. I made some inquiries from DENR officials about Malang's concerns, and they replied that during the term of Secretary Antonio Cerilles, he allowed his provincemates in Mindanao whom he took with him to the DENR, to have houses there to save on rent money. It seems that after he left, other DENR employees got the cue and built their own houses there. The officials I talked to said they will demolish the houses.

* * *

Enough of the bad news. Now for the good news. The Quezon City government under Mayor Feliciano Belmonte is going to make Quezon City a Garden City. Just like the original Garden City, Singapore, which is green with trees, grass and gardens. Singapore procured their narra seedlings from the Philippines many years ago and now it has more narra trees than the whole of Metro Manila. And so it shouldn't be hard to make Quezon City another Garden City.

Quezon City has a Parks Development Office and Belmonte's front man in his greening project is Robert Nacianceño, assistant city administrator. Nacianceño has been holding meetings with various agencies, public and private, and individuals (landscape architects, environment NGOs such as Bantay Kalikasan, DENR, Department of Public Works and Highways, Metro Manila Development Authority, etc.) to plan the greening of the Capitol City.

From his 14th floor office in City Hall, there is a bird's eye view of the Quezon and Ninoy parks, the University of the Philippines campus, as well as the forested areas around the Kidney and Lung Centers. Trees everywhere. In the far distance is the forested La Mesa Dam watershed.

One of the initial plans is to plant shade trees all along the thoroughfares. Another is to put plants under and on the side of the Metrorail lines to soften the harsh lines of the concrete. Planting ivy to climb the columns supporting the rail line is one way. The artists' sketches even had hanging gardens on the pedestrian overpasses. (By the way, everybody I asked agreed that our pedestrian overpasses are ugly, too bulky and heavy. The steel overpasses in Japan look much better and they cost the same. Maybe the DPWH should have new designs of overpasses.)

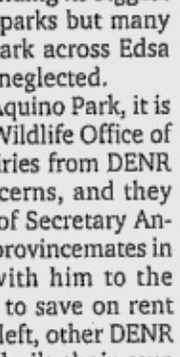
Still another plan is to connect the La Mesa Dam watershed with the Quezon Memorial Park. La Mesa is a delight to nature lovers but it is largely unseen by the public. I think the public should be allowed to enjoy it. The people will get to appreciate, love and preserve the environment better if they experience the delight of communing with nature.

I suggested that the two parks be connected with a 9-kilometer biking and jogging trail along both sides of Commonwealth Avenue which is now being widened. Plant shade trees along it, between the street and the sidewalk, to protect the bikers and pedestrians from the vehicles. That should also prevent vendors and parked vehicles from encroaching on the sidewalk.

I also suggested that the idle Commonwealth property of UP, which is now a temptation to squatters and landgrabbers in its present state, be transformed into a park—at DENR and QC expense—while UP still has no use for it. Why allow such a big tract of land to go to waste in a city that has precious few parks?

True grit

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

THAT was an inspiring story about the teacher who stopped the carnage at Erfurt. It truly is a shaft of bright light amid that pitch darkness that has happened there.

The story, for those who missed it in the news, is this: Robert Stanhaeuser, a troubled youth, had shot to death 13 teachers, two students and a cop, and wounded 10 people while on a rampage in his school when Rainer Heise saw him in the hallway. When he did, Heise, a soft-spoken and elderly man who taught art in the school, did not as yet know the identity of the gunman who was wearing a mask. But somehow he found the courage to grab hold of his shirt and confront him.

The gunman, recognizing the man accosting him, took off his mask. "Robert?" said Heise, surprised at seeing his former pupil. When Steinhaeuser said nothing, Heise said, "Go ahead and shoot me, but look me in the face." Steinhaeuser, who had much respect for his teacher, shook his head and said politely, "That's it for today, Herr Heise."

Heise then suggested that Steinhaeuser go with him to the art drawing room, and Steinhaeuser went along with it. As soon as Steinhaeuser was in the doorway, Heise pushed him in and locked the door. Shortly later, Steinhaeuser shot himself in the head.

The story isn't just inspiring, it is a good reminder of the things that really matter. Unlike in action movies, a rampaging killer was not stopped by a SWAT team climbing down walls and blasting down doors, a crack shot sending a bullet into the head of the assassin from a rooftop, or a hero confronting the villain *mano a mano* and besting him by being a master of martial arts or a fast draw. He was stopped by a balding and mild-mannered art teacher, armed with nothing more than courage and reasonableness. One who had earned the respect of a killer, enough to stay his murderous hand.

It is a good point for us to consider amid the confusion of our own age, particularly our proneness to solve violence with more violence.

As with the kin of the victims in America, the kin of the victims in Germany are pointing to the proliferation of guns and violent video games, such as those found in Steinhaeuser's home, as the cause of this tragedy. I myself am not so sure about the video games, just as I am not so sure about the violent movies Americans pointed to as the culprits in the mayhem in their own campuses. I grant some of the video games and movies are violent in a mean-spirited way, and their increased realism, thanks to giant strides in technology, which have not been matched by giant strides in morality, adds to the problem. But I've always thought something more was needed to totally blur the line between fantasy and reality. That is a violent reality itself.

Or more specifically a violent reality that glosses over the violence and makes it look unreal. The normal difference between a video game (and action movies) and real life is that in the first, you know who the villains are—they wear black and look ugly—and the results of blasting them to kingdom come is that you earn points while in real life you do not know who the villains are—you probably are so, for all you know—and the results of blasting people to kingdom come is that they bleed and die. Game is not over, there is the devil to pay.

But you have a reality that tends to reduce the world to black and white, to enemy and friend, to good guys and bad guys, and (what is bound to produce more mayhem in future) to terrorists and anti-terrorists, and you will have problems. You have a reality moreover that makes the mayhem unreal through language and images—the Vietnam War spawned a vocabulary that included "wasting," "search and destroy" and "hamleting," variously for killing, massacring and herding civilians into refugee camps, and the Gulf War and the war in Afghanistan made air strikes look like video games with no flesh-and-blood casualties, only "targets that have been removed"—and you will have problems. That is what makes those violent video games dangerous, that monumental reinforcement in real life.

Guns are part of that violent reality, of that culture that reduces the world into black and white and turns violence into a video game. They bring with them a culture that extols or at least justifies violence in the name of self-defense. They are the bridge between violent video games and movies and a violent real life, carrying with them as they do their own vocabulary of neutralizing enemies and removing targets, blurring the lines between fantasy and reality altogether. And not quite incidentally, they provide crackpots with the means to act out their violent fantasies in real life.

It is good that amid all these a Rainer Heise has come out, completely serendipitously, to remind us of the true dimensions of reality. His story is almost a fable, or parable, in that respect. A small quiet story that says there is something more powerful than destruction and that is creation, there is something more powerful than madness and that is reason, there is something more powerful than guns and that is art. Indeed, a small quiet story that says true grit is not physical or found in a readiness to hurt others, it is moral and found in the readiness to save others. Who knows? Maybe if Steinhaeuser had spent more time in Heise's art classes than in the shooting gallery learning to become a crack shot, 17 people, including he, would still be alive today.

All Heise did was talk to a killer, removing the blindfold from his eyes and making him see the world for what it was. That made all the difference.

Today's peril to journalists

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE CELEBRATION of World Press Freedom Day today highlights the increasing risks to the lives of journalists covering conflict zones and the growing curtailment of news coverage by even democratic states in the wake of the war on terrorism following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

Foreign and local journalists participating in the Unesco-sponsored workshop on media and terrorism in Manila drew this picture in their case studies during their sessions. This portrayal offers the grim prospects that in the quest for news from conflicts, journalists will be murdered, shot at, intimidated and manipulated by media managers of governments and their adversaries. And the bad news is that no one—most of all, governments—can ensure their safety.

Consider these statistics. According to the French non-government organization, "Reporters sans Frontieres," (RSF), 176 journalists killed in conflict zones between 1992 and 2001 were murdered—not caught in the crossfire. Most were deliberately gunned down after identifying themselves as journalists. And yet, 95 percent of attacks on journalists worldwide go unpunished, according to Abdul Waheed Khan, Unesco assistant director general for communication and information.

In the early coverage of the war on terrorism and the Taliban and al-Qaida network in Afghanistan, Daniel Pearl of the Asian Wall Street Journal was brutally murdered. He was doing his job. Jean-Paul Marthoz, European director of information of Human Rights Watch reports:

"These murders remind us that states, or at least their official representatives, are not the only authors of attacks on press freedom, or even necessarily the worst culprits. Among those who 'prey' on freedom, we increasingly find unofficial agencies, fundamentalist groups, paramilitary gangs, free-wheeling secret services and organized crime. In this twilight war against terrorism, state repression occurs alongside individual crime; and on occasion the two mingle inextricably. The victims were killed in among other places in Colombia, where the government is in a state of war with drug lords and leftist and right-wing paramilitary groups, in the Basque region, in Algeria and in some African countries.

The Sept. 11 events, however, introduced new dimensions in the threat to press freedom. The threat of terrorism has two different dimensions, says Khan. "First, the creation of a climate of fear, suspicion and mistrust which erodes the foundations of mutual confidence essential for exercising one's rights and freedoms. And second, terrorism may provoke a response from governmental authorities which, in the pursuit of greater security, may impose forms of surveillance, control and regulation that severely constrain democratic practices, freedom of expression and the operation of free, independent and pluralistic media."

Khan says: "Terrorism does not only present an indirect threat to freedom of expression by governments adopting restrictive press laws to counter terrorism. Terrorism presents as well a very direct and physical threat for all the journalists who try to cover terroristic acts. Journalists are often caught in the crossfire of different interests and in a war on public opinion."

In the United States, which has led the international coalition in the war on terrorism, the government required journalists to "choose their side" and not undermine the effectiveness of the fight against terrorism, according to Chris Warren, president of the International Federation of Journalists. The US administration made the point that journalists should be patriots first and journalists only secondarily, and an American journalist notes the notion that negative news is not news is gaining ground. A number of American media organizations have suggested to their staff "balance" coverage of the American bombing in Afghanistan by recalling the atrocity of the Sept. 11 attacks while ignoring civilian casualties in the Afghanistan bombing.

In any case, the deployment of US special forces in Afghanistan precluded press coverage in conflict zones, first, because reporters do not have facilities to take them to the zones and they thus have to depend on reports filtered by military communiqués.

In war, access to information and freedom to investigate are the first casualties. In the war on terror, this freedom is even more restricted, and public opinion pressure aroused by the atrocities of the Sept. 11 attacks weigh heavily on journalists trying to write balanced news that reports on events from the side of al-Qaida and Osama bin Laden.

The ideal pursued by journalists in the center of combat zones is to report what they see, hear and smell—without going through military censors—but it does not always happen this way. The issue of country first before the enemy—or my country first right or wrong—asserts itself powerfully in the minds of journalists covering conflicts. Often, reporting events in the front kept away by military or government sectors led to wrong and expensive war decisions in the national capital. Journalists are always caught in this dilemma, but the dilemma is sometimes solved by the fact that physical barriers against being in the front, force them to cover conflicts behind the lines—that is, behind friendly lines.

Words and worlds of meanings

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WORDS are the lifeblood of our business, the media business, that is. Words are the basic stuff with which we build our product, though for photography, television and film, words must likewise be supplemented, if not supplanted, by images.

But it's remarkable how, given that words are the raw materials of our craft, calling and vocation, we in the media often take them for granted. We are often careless with their use, not just in terms of grammar and usage, but more so with meanings. If there is anything that the whole "political correctness" trend has shown us, it is that words carry entire worlds of meaning and understanding, that labels not only identify but define, describe and circumscribe.

No words or labels are as important or incendiary these days as "terrorist" and "terrorism." Sept. 11, 2001 made the words part of everyday conversation. But as journalism professor Luis V. Teodoro points out, we use the words "terrorist" and "terrorism" in our reportage and commentary based on assumptions and viewpoints "which are often uncritically assimilated."

In a paper read at a pre-conference for the just-concluded international meet on "Terrorism and the Media," Teodoro says "the reporting of terrorism has always been problematic for the mass media. During the Cold War the word was indiscriminately applied by the media in our part of the world to any group or individual that used violence for political ends, which usually meant those groups that were either opposed to, or which were not explicitly supportive, of the United States.

"The definition was broad enough to include all the groups, political parties and other organizations involved in the anti-colonial struggles of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, as well as all the social and political movements struggling to rid their societies of the various dictatorships that in the 1960s and 1970s were virtually worldwide phenomena. If one went back far enough, the definition would in fact condemn the French, American, Russian and Chinese revolutions as terrorist."

* * *

INDEED, one person's "terrorist" is another's "freedom fighter." Palestinians chafing under Israeli controls and despairing of any peaceful breakthrough, hail the "suicide bombers" as heroes and martyrs. To Israeli officials and their supporters, they are "homicide bombers" who end up maiming and killing not just themselves but everyone else unfortunate enough to be around them.

At the height of martial law, the "Light a Fire" movement not only espoused the use of terrorist tactics to bring down the Marcos regime, but actually carried out bombings that, as far as I can recall, killed a visiting American travel agent and caused a singer to lose a leg. In the euphoria following the first Edsa uprising, the leading lights of "Light a Fire" were not only released from detention, but also hailed as heroes and appointed to government posts.

"At one point the individuals and groups labeled as terrorist by global media included Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress," reveals Teodoro. "The patent absurdity of it was enough to make at least one news agency—Interpress News Service, which at that time was predominantly covering the conflict zones of Africa—instruct its reporters never to use the words 'terrorist' and 'extremist' in their news dispatches except in direct quotations from news sources."

* * *

USING "terrorist" and "terrorism," however, has implications beyond semantics and political posturing.

"Today the same tendency is evident toward using the term (terrorism) to apply to everyone whose views or interpretation of the vast range of concerns and issues that occupy entire nations are not to one's liking," Teodoro says. "In the Philippine setting, the word terrorist has always been used by the government to describe those groups that have taken up arms against it, and the media have most of the time replicated the practice in their reportage."

Such indiscriminate use, or echoing, of the label "terrorist" has particularly unfortunate consequences for the Filipino Muslim community. Since Muslim separatist groups have been among the more prominent groups posing an armed challenge to the state, the practice has resulted in "hardening already existing majority prejudices," emphasizing the "otherness" of Filipino Muslims and making "the resolution of the so-called 'Mindanao problem' even more resistant to lasting solutions."

* * *

ANOTHER consequence of the indiscriminate and careless use of such labels, says Teodoro, is "the encouragement of the view that insurgency, which in the Philippines has been as perennial as the grass for nearly three centuries, is a phenomenon created by nothing more than the perverse desire of certain groups and individuals for power, rather than a symptom of the reality of those grievances, inequalities and injustices resident in our imperfect society."

One of the functions of the media is to explain the world to the public, to put the confusing, conflicting and often contradictory events of the day in some order that makes sense and connects with people's everyday lives. But in the daily and even minute-by-minute search for explanations, the temptation to fall back on the easy and expedient is difficult to resist.

"Under these circumstances," writes Teodoro, "the mass media, driven in the first place by the demands of commerce and in many instances run by individuals who very often share the same majority viewpoint of events in this country, are in danger of echoing short-sighted interpretations meant to serve no more than tactical, short-term purposes."

How well have the Philippine media explained the world to Filipinos? How can we do better?

History in Oriental ceramics

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

FOR MANY years I would go in and out of the Rizal Library of the Ateneo de Manila University completely ignoring the glass cases displaying a collection of Oriental ceramics excavated in the Philippines. You cannot miss this odd assortment of old plates and bowls because they are situated at both entrances to the library. I was usually too busy to even bother about these when I was a student but now, as a teacher, I tell my students to take some time and look at them. Like many things in life, we see but we do not notice. I wouldn't be surprised if bored students resent being forced to look at broken or chipped pieces of ceramics. I'm sure they have better specimens in their homes probably used as accents in interior decoration. Where else but the Philippines would you find people using thousand-year-old saucers as ashtrays!

Putting myself in my students' shoes, I know that after visiting four galleries bursting with Oriental ceramics in the National Museum they swear never to look at another piece of blue and white porcelain as long as they live. Even as a historian I completely ignored Oriental ceramics for a long time—even when I was collecting pre-colonial earthenware in the late 1980s. Dealers would advise me to at least consider acquiring a few pieces of what were best described as "associated materials." Being a trying-hard nationalist, I was only interested in Philippine-made artifacts, not "imported" ones. So disinterested was I that I sold two copies of the rare Locsin and Locsin "Oriental Ceramics Discovered in the Philippines," and used the funds for other purchases. I regret this because I cannot find a copy today and now use a photocopy.

In early 1999, I was shown an entire collection of books on Oriental ceramics. I don't know what I ate that day but I asked to bring the whole box home not to buy but just to spend an afternoon looking at the pictures. It was a Zen moment, I browsed and read and by nightfall came to the realization that any study of Philippine prehistory inevitably touched on ceramics. So that's why the Rizal Library placed those ceramics by the entrances. How blind I have been. Worse, there are many others who spend four years in the Ateneo and remain as unappreciative as I once was.

From then on, I took a lot of time in the ceramic galleries of the National Museum trying to get as much as I could from the displays before I got bored by the sheer number of artifacts. A museum is not a one-shot deal. One has to keep returning if only to discover new things or find new insights on each trip. Since one cannot touch the ceramics in the museum, I would frequent shops in the Ermita area where dealers were happy to let me handle the pieces and even allow me to flick the rim with my finger just to hear if it still rings like a bell. Even when dealers noticed I was browsing rather than buying, they remained hospitable but probably said nasty things like "*barat*" as soon as my back was turned. In a *sosyal* shop run by Kit Roxas in Makati, I would get an impromptu lecture on ceramics over *merienda* of hot *pandesal* and coco jam. It was a terrible thought that while our archeologists are working with shards or broken pieces in their excavation sites, whole and perfect specimens can be found in shops and auctions in Hong Kong and London. It is even more amusing to note that the reproductions on sale at the museum are sometimes more expensive than the real *macoy* in Ermita.

Back home I rummaged through my mother's display cabinets and found a treasure trove of excavated ceramics bought cheaply in the 1960s. Once, in my teens, my mother decorated my room with these. It was such a sissy thing to do, I dumped everything out of my bedroom door. Naturally, her reaction was violent—she actually threatened to break a few pieces on my head but relented (one wonders which she valued more, the ceramics or her favorite son's head) and contented herself with the usual expletives. Now I ate my pride and sneaked into her China cabinet and made off with 11 jarlets. When she found out, I inherited her entire collection on the spot.

Around March 2000, new excavation sites in Samar coughed up some gold pieces and a number of fine pre-Ming celadon pieces. Then there was the discovery of Ming porcelain in the waters of Zambales. The Philippines is rather rich in archeological treasures both on land and sea and perhaps it is this abundance that has made these pieces of our past so common that they go unnoticed in museums, shops and even private homes. Oriental ceramics can be dated, at times simply by looking at its form and shape. There are experts in the Oriental Ceramic Society of the Philippines who can go one step further than dating and tell you exactly which kiln in China, Thailand, or Cambodia a certain piece is from. There is so much specialized knowledge involved in Oriental ceramics which is probably why I do not collect it. However, each time I see these antique bowls, plates, saucers and jarlets found in abundance in the Philippines, I stop and notice if only to remind myself that pre-colonial Filipinos were not savages who required civilization when Ferdinand Magellan arrived in 1521.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Burned by the park

COMMENTARY

Natalia M.L.M. Morales

BURNHAM PARK—A family trip to the City of Pines momentarily burned my interest on the current tourism campaign of Secretary Richard Gordon and his upbeat team.

After a year-long planning, we decided that the Baguio trip would double as a graduation gift to our 16-year-old son, Rafael Norman, who had never been there before. Five of us in the family (minus a new medical graduate daughter Novette Regina who had then a duty at the UP-PGH) rode a van that made us enjoy the not-so-steepy climb along Marcos Highway. It had been some 20 years ago when we went to this city as a family with the three children then as toddlers. Since then, trips to the summer capital had been much of a customized event—a Boy Scout sortie for father and older son Raymond, a weekend club trip for youngest daughter Nadine; some official trips for hubby Rafael and myself along the years. Seeing Baguio City since 1998, and the city becoming more popular due to its Panagbenga (flower) festival in the month of February, there was much personal and collective anticipation for this trip.

Although the kids are now grown up, we did not hesitate to take the famous sights they once enjoyed. Distinct was the boat ride in Burnham Park. Except for the murky water, the ambiance results in the feel of a polished, cosmopolitan city. It gives a heightened sense of pride that this ambiance is found right here in the Philippines! The adjoining area of Camp John Hay and Baguio Country Club also affirms this feeling of pride (but is rather costly to one who would pursue the delight). On the next Sunday before our return to Manila, my hubby pined for his favorite Chinese food. The driver took us for a late lunch to the famous Rosebowl Restaurant right in the heart of Burnham Park. The place was full. We finally got a table at the second floor. After my nibbling of dimsum, a fellow guest frantically approached me and asked if my bag is still there (as a habit, I put my bag on the chair behind me). I looked and indeed, it was gone! In a split second, the guest (a Mr. Rodriguez I later found out his name), declared a child took my bag. Instantly we knew there was a thief, a bag snatcher right in our midst. The alert waiters and security guards immediately followed my husband, son and Mr. Rodriguez who gallantly took it upon himself to run after the snatcher. Upon a later reconstruction, at least a good solid 20 minutes transpired between the running of the main snatcher to a parked FX car, loading the child and my purse into the car before scampering away himself, and later being chased and caught by the security and police. The culprit broke away from a pay parking lot so when the FX (presumably the getaway car) tried to get out of the parking lot, the suspicious guards stopped the driver and saw my bag and the little boy (about 2 years old I surmised when I saw him with the main snatcher, purportedly his father, at the police station later). The bag was then safely returned to my husband and son, who together with Mr. Rodriguez were still wondering where the main snatcher went. The restaurant's guests, who became instant onlookers streaming out of the place into the curb, were happy that we retrieved the bag (that had all my valuables for the four-day trip). Some were even cynical if I could ever get the bag back. All's well that ends well. But even before I could finish my interrupted meal, the city police had requested my filing of a report on the incident at the station. I did what I felt was my social and moral duty as a citizen, wanting to contribute to a safe and crime-free Philippine tourism.

The following facts have emerged from the short interaction I had with the alleged culprit. He is from Manila, who purportedly hitched a ride with the driver of the FX, he was with his 2-year-old son, and he needed money for some medicine. Mr. Rodriguez, whom we left at Rosebowl with his family, told me that he got suspicious of the snatcher who once passed by their table with the little boy. His wife's bag fell off the chair. So when he saw them later coming from our direction with my bag around the child's neck, he rose to the occasion to inform me right away. Baguio police tags a possible syndicate from Manila preying on tourists. Crime does not pay when citizens are vigilant not only for themselves but for others! Through this column, I'd like to thank Mr. Rodriguez, the waiters, security of Rosebowl (Ms Lourdes Nang, the owner, apologized to us and assured me it was the first time it happened in the 30-year history of the eatery). I am more than thankful no one was hurt and the infraction was quickly solved. At the police station, other things ran in my mind—promotion of Philippine tourism will always have snags like these when social, economic and moral infrastructure are deficient. Perhaps there is more to tourism than meets the eye.

On a more pleasant note, aesthetic-wise I am happy with the efforts of boosting tourism in the country. Baguio has a lot to offer the tourists although summer months can overload it and induce higher rate of crimes. Street billboards point to the city as being the cleanest, the greenest, the bloomiest. I was just disappointed with the description of it being the City of Lights. On our last night, my husband and I drove around the city and it was relatively pitch dark. The lights from the houses by the mountainside didn't appear as luminous as I expected. It was better during the day when some portions of the city evoke sceneries of San Francisco and even Lisbon minus its dense layered concrete and ancient panorama. Session Road expectedly has now more of the hustle and bustle—gone were the cafés and quiet nooks my young colleagues and I from UP Diliman enjoyed during the summer breaks in our once carefree years. Now fast-food centers are a-plenty, but I did not see any gargantuan mall. Is Baguio City making a quiet statement on this?

Finally and inevitably, one cannot miss that Philippine tourism still suffers from lopsided development. The Camp John Hay/Baguio Country Club development veneer does not extend beyond the city outskirts. On our way to La Trinidad Valley to get the high-quality Baguio produce, we noticed how bereft the mountainside of Benguet of those magnificent pine trees. History tells us the Americans first planted the pine seeds to build the country's summer capital. But there is much primitive lushness and ugly erosion that combine outside the city limits, the effect just jars the vision. Of course, it is an invitation to another kind of adventure, perhaps away from the snatchers and swindlers that litter the cityscape in the summer months.

Despite the relative coolness of Baguio in the summer months, one can still get burned, if one does not watch out.

Natalia M.L.M. Morales is professor of Political Science and International Studies at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

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Judges shouldn't be in a popularity contest

THERE is a serious policy question on whether how courts perform in a trial is a fair question to ask at all in a poll. What for? To ensure that the courts would do the popular as implied in your editorial "Solid vote for the courts"? (PDI, 4/ 27/02)

That may be proper on a policy issue for politicians to consider. But to subject a trial to polling has to be studied as it is only natural for one to prefer to be popular than right. It is close to saying why try anyone at all? Let the public, who cannot know what is going on in court, be polled *na lang*.

What led to our dismissal as counsel was our complaint that we could not cope with thrice-a-week hearings, later to be expanded. New lawyers were appointed, who then complained that such a schedule was non-sustainable. They were sustained, vindicating our position.

If we were to please the uninformed mob when we have an unpopular or controversial client, we should just denounce him as guilty and get it over and done with. Otherwise, we have to stay the course even if the Social Weather Stations releases a finding that 110 percent of our people do not approve of the way an accused and his counsel behave.

Prof. Alan Dershowitz once said: "The primary role of unelected courts in our system of checks and balances is to vindicate the constitutional rights of (the) unpopular (and the) minorities who are incapable of implementing their rights through the popularly elected branches (and the powerful tendentious media, if I may add). The true test of a great Supreme Court justice is whether he or she will be bold enough to stand up to temporary majorities and to vindicate the rights of unpopular minorities, such as atheists, aliens, communists, fascists, the mentally ill, criminal defendants and the homeless... (I)t's not the justices' job to win popularity contests."

Prof. Yale Kamisar sighs: "It's so easy to forget about principles."

The question to ask is why Mahar Mangahas keeps asking the questions he does as if to signal to the courts to do the popular. Sad. The judicial process should not be politicized as if the magistrates' job is to win popularity contests. Otherwise, let them resign and run for public office.

—R.A.V. SAGUISAG, 4045 Bigasan St., Palanan, Makati City

LETTERS — PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

GMA's Goering or Rasputin?

DANTE Ang's comments on your editorial of April 17, 2002 ("Perfect fit") made for interesting reading but it also raised more questions than they clarified.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's estimation of Ang may be out of realistic proportion and was as overblown as Ang's valuation of his worth to the President. However, while the two probably deserve each other, their symbiotic relationship may not necessarily be for the benefit of the people.

The so-called Gloria (by whatever name she may be known) mystique can hardly be credited to Ang's public relations efforts. When Ms Macapagal topped the senatorial election in 1992, there were other factors that put her on top. A major influence allegedly was the *jueteng* money from her provincemate, Bong Pineda, which ensured that she would be "the darling of the crowd."

Being a public relations specialist, Ang knows Noel Cabrera and Rigoberto Tiglao. The two are much too gentlemanly to tell on him. That much they owe to the President.

As Ms Macapagal's personal (Ang says "professional") publicist, Ang is to Gloria as Goering was to Hitler: part of the thought-control apparatus that reinvents reality.

On second thought, however, I would be more at ease if Ang were simply a Goering to Ms Macapagal rather than her Rasputin.

—LUCILA ABUEVA, 2602 Filmore St., Barrio Palanan, Makati City

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How WPP handled witness' rape complaint

THIS refers to the news published in your newspaper regarding the woman under the Witness Protection Program who complained that she was raped by a security personnel.

Our record shows that on June 5, 2001, the witness testified and completed her testimony before the regional trial court of Pangasinan. A year earlier, on June 26, 2000, she was admitted into the program. On March 5, 2001, the monitoring section reported that since the accused in her father's murder case had been arrested, the threat to the witness had been greatly reduced. It was also reported that the case was being settled amicably. On Aug. 28, 2001, coverage of witness was terminated.

For humanitarian reasons, upon her and that of Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption chair Dante Jimenez's request, her coverage was extended with full benefits to enable her to find a suitable relocation site of her choice. On March 4, 2002, upon periodic review and after a second threat assessment, the witness was served with a notice of termination (from the program).

On April 1, 2002 she complained about the sexual advances of Jerry Lintan and requested for an extension in her coverage with financial assistance. She later changed her mind and asked for relocation assistance.

Recognizing her immediate financial need, I advanced her P5,000 from my personal funds, which was to be reimbursed out of her relocation assistance after this shall have been approved by the executive committee. Her request was formally approved on April 16, 2002.

The claim that the witness left the program on April 2, because I failed to act on her complaint and even mocked her, is unkind and inaccurate. So is her allegation that I dissuaded her and was partial to the security officer.

The fact is that she was advised that considering the gravity of the reported offense, she had to put her complaint in writing so that it could be properly dealt with. She returned to follow up her relocation payment but did not submit her written complaint. Nonetheless, as a preventive measure, Lintan was disarmed and restricted to the Cordillera Autonomous Region on the very date she complained.

Considering that the parties involved are married, I feel it proper to reserve my comments on the merits of the witness' complaint and the version of the security officer to spare their respective families any unnecessary pain and embarrassment. This would also forestall any prejudice to the various investigations which are now underway, including one for obstruction of justice lodged against me.

I assure the public that this is an isolated incident which should not undermine the government's earnest efforts to secure bona fide qualified witnesses. It is noteworthy that since its implementation in 1992, the program has provided witnesses nationwide security protection, education, health, housing and financial assistance and other benefits under the law. Although the program can stand improvement and without meaning to be immodest, our record of convictions and the extent of our present operations despite meager resources attest to the efficacy of the program's implementation.

—LEO B. DACERA III, senior state prosecutor and program director, Witness Protection Security and Benefit Program, Department of Justice, Padre Faura, Manila

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'Freedom Force' being misinterpreted

THERE is a lot of cock and bull circulating about columnist Teddy Benigno. It seems to me that all this talk about "collective leadership" being a junta (and, thus, can only be the product of a coup) is either a misinterpretation by those who are prone to jumping to conclusions, or a misrepresentation by those who are averse to the notion of genuine reforms. Benigno is a good Filipino and he deserves to be heard.

In the absence of a white paper or manifesto, my own sense is that he wants the middle forces to snap out of their stupor and look around. He sees the Center crumbling, and the Left and Right on the ascendance. Without the middle forces firmly holding the Center, he foresees that we are headed straight for a bloody revolution that O.D. Corpuz wrote about in his book "The Roots of the Filipino Nation."

I am drawn to another definition of "collective leadership" as a coalition of citizens, from the left of center to the right of center, leading the way to effect meaningful change and avert widespread bloodshed. Benigno calls this the "Freedom Force." What he needs to clarify—and in the process debunk the useless argument as to whether he is a coup plotter or not—is how he intends to bring about this coalition that, in the end, will produce a strong state and a strong society.

Naturally, all good Filipinos must closely examine the premises that underlie his proposal. Is the Center crumbling? Are the Left and Right on the march? Is the country headed for a bloodletting? Is the Freedom Force the best way forward?

This is our right, as well as our responsibility, as democratic citizens: to gather as much information first before openly discussing the issue and reaching an informed decision to either support his thesis or not, instead of behaving like a bunch of morons who prefer mindless chatter to constructive thought and positive action.

May I suggest that we stay focused on our needs of the hour: more jobs, swift and impartial justice and freedom from atrophied minds and corrosive behavior.

—RAFAEL M. ALUNAN III, 63 9th St., Quezon City

Senior citizens given crumbs

ACCORDING to the Senior Citizens' Law (RA 7432), senior citizens are entitled to a 20-percent discount on private services, like transportation, hotels, restaurants, theaters and similar amusement places. However, senior citizens rarely patronize these services and places precisely because of their old age. Ironically, on services they are most in need of, they do not get any discounts, such as for private hospital services. What kind of help is that?

It's as if the law is telling senior citizens: I'll help you, but I'll give you only the crumbs that fall from the table.

Is this not a hypocritical law? It must be changed.

—REV. FRANCISCO S. GIANAN, 113 Victoria, Magallanes Village, Makati City

A temptation to steal

WE, the Camillian Fathers providing spiritual guidance and services in the Boys' Town Complex, appeal for the immediate removal of a Vendo machine inside the Boys' Town Complex compound. It has serious implications on the character building and spiritual guidance of the children during their delicate formative years. It fabricates unnecessary needs for abandoned children. Orphaned children may become envious of those children outside the compound who can afford to buy soft drinks inside the compound. It creates the temptation to steal money to buy the alluring commercial products.

The machine has been there since Jan. 25, 2002. Being faithful to the mission statement of the Boys' Town Complex to prepare the orphaned and neglected children for Christian living and good citizenry, we ask those concerned to remove it so as to provide an atmosphere conducive to the formation of 197 children living inside the complex.

—FR. ARISTELO MIRANDA, OSC, The Camillian Fathers, St. Camillus College Seminary, 17 Apitong St., Marikina Heights, 1810 Marikina City

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Shots, fire erupt at Nativity Church

BETHLEHEM, West Bank—Flames leaped from the Church of the Nativity compound early Thursday during heavy exchanges of fire between Israeli troops and Palestinian gunmen holed up in one of Christendom's holiest shrines.

The Palestinians said the fire—which damaged dormitory rooms, but not the basilica itself—was sparked by Israeli flares, while Israel accused the gunmen of arson. The fire was about 15 meters from the 4th-century basilica.

Palestinians said the Israelis started shooting at the church and fired flares and stun grenades which exploded over the building like fireworks in the night sky.

Three rooms in the Orthodox Christian and Franciscan sections of the large compound caught alight and three people were slightly burned as they battled to put out the blaze with buckets of water, Palestinians in the church said by telephone.

The shooting went on sporadically for about an hour before an uneasy calm returned to the area.

Details of what triggered the shooting remained unclear but the Israeli government was adamant the fire was caused by Palestinian gunmen.

Daniel Taub, deputy legal adviser for the Israeli Foreign ministry, said: "There was firing from inside the church and by Israeli forces outside and at the same time a fire was started by the Palestinians inside the church.

"Israel has stated . . . it will respect the sanctity of the place. Unfortunately the Palestinians don't have the same respect," he said.

At his Ramallah compound, moments after Israeli forces lifted their month-long siege, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat shook with anger as he faced cameras after receiving word of the fire and blamed the Israelis.

"This is a big crime that has taken place against this holy place. For me it makes no difference even if they had destroyed this room which I am working in. What is important for me and for the whole world is the Nativity church," Arafat told CNN.

"Why are they (the international community) not moving against what is going on in this holy sacred place?" Arafat said.

Taub accused Arafat of trying to use the situation in the church as "another excuse to inflame international passions."

"I think Yasser Arafat could be playing a more constructive role in trying to bring this impasse to an end."

Taub would not comment on the negotiations between the two sides to resolve the situation in the church but reaffirmed the Israeli position that all those inside are free to go except the 20 to 30 gunmen whom it wants to arrest or send into permanent exile.

Israeli forces have been surrounding the church since April 2, when more than 200 Palestinians, including gunmen, took refuge inside as Israeli troops invaded. ***AP***

Annan aborts fact-finding team to Jenin

UNITED NATIONS—UN Secretary General Kofi Annan on Wednesday decided to call off his fact-finding team to probe Israel's assault on the Palestinian Jenin refugee camp after Israel reversed course and blocked the mission.

He wrote a three-page letter to the UN Security Council, giving his reasons for disbanding the 20-member panel on Thursday. Council members then debated rival US and Arab-drafted resolutions in closed consultations.

Senior UN officials said Annan gave a 24-hour delay to disband the team, now gathered in Geneva, as a courtesy to the 15-nation council, which had approved the operation. But they said the mission would be abandoned.

Palestinians had accused the Israeli Army of a massacre during eight days of fierce house-to-house fighting that left most of the camp in ruins. Israel says Palestinian gunmen were the main victims and that 26 suicide bombers came from Jenin.

Outlining some of Israel's objections, Annan said he regretted that aborting the mission meant "the long shadow cast by recent events in the Jenin refugee camp will remain."

"With the situation in the Jenin refugee camp changing by the day, it will become more and more difficult to establish with any confidence or accuracy the 'recent events' that took place there," Annan said in the letter.

"For these reasons, it is my intention to disband the fact-finding team tomorrow," he wrote on Wednesday.

Israel's Cabinet on Tuesday again failed to give approval to the UN team, after agreeing two weeks ago to the mission. It insisted on an overhaul of the team's procedures and said the mission's final report should omit conclusions.

The Security Council consulted past midnight EDT with the United States, drafting a resolution in an effort to ward off a stronger Arab-initiated draft. ***Reuters***

Furious Arafat regains freedom

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on Thursday regained his freedom after a groundbreaking US deal that saw six wanted Palestinians shipped out of his besieged offices and into international custody.

ARAFAT making a point.

But even as hundreds of armed supporters celebrated in the devastated grounds of his compound, freshly vacated by Israeli troops, the haggard-looking veteran leader showed no sign of sharing their joy.

Picking up his invective against Israel where he left off a month ago when Israel silenced him with its month-long siege, Arafat weighed in against the Jewish state's Army, calling them "terrorists, Nazis and racists."

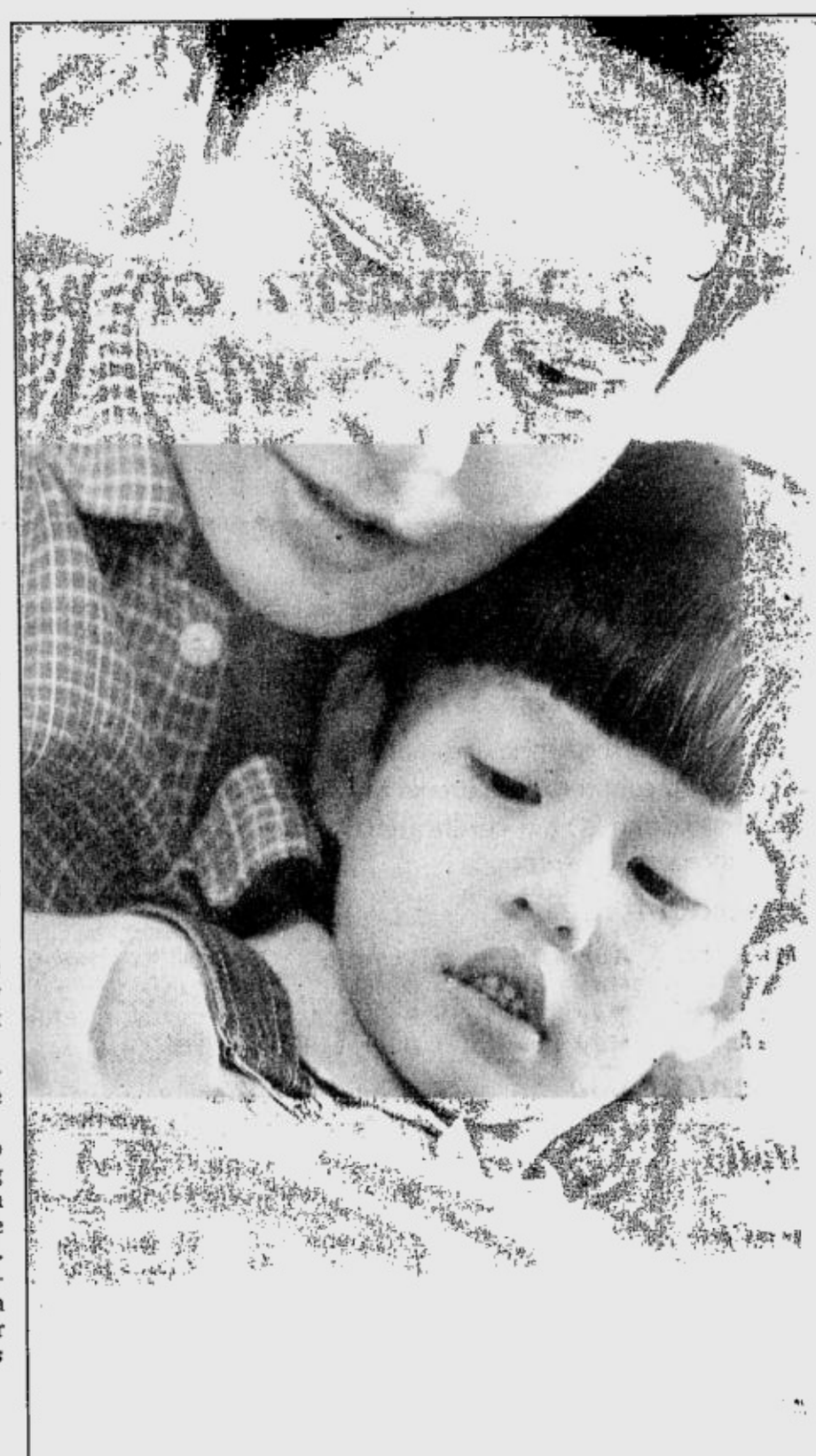
He said his only immediate concern was for the Church of the Nativity where a fire broke out amid heavy shooting at about the same time as Israel left his headquarters under a deal cut by Washington, which took custody of six wanted men who had been trapped in Arafat's offices.

"It is unacceptable," shouted Arafat, shaking slightly in front of journalists as he spoke in fury about the Bethlehem fire, which both sides blamed on the other.

"It is unacceptable for the Palestinians, for the Arabs, for the Muslims, for the Christians, for the United Nations, for the United States and for Russia," Arafat said.

He made no move to join the jubilant crowd outside his offices.

The gleeful crowd swarmed in to greet the defenders of the building after US and British security teams ferried six men, charged variously with killing an Israeli minister and trying to smuggle weapons, from the compound to Jericho's jail. ***AFP***



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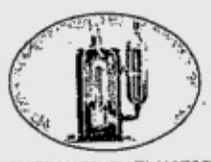

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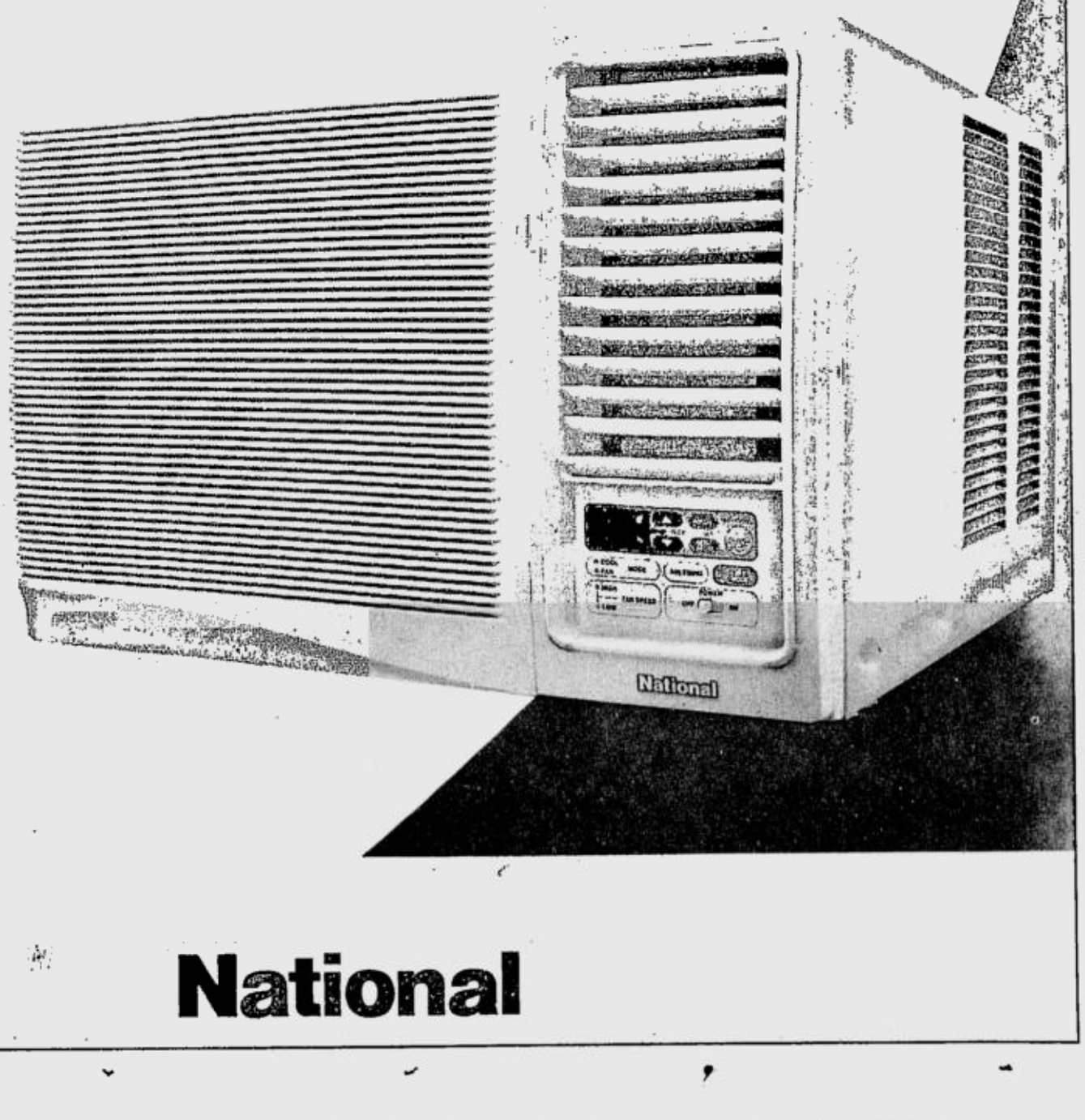

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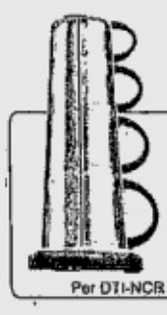

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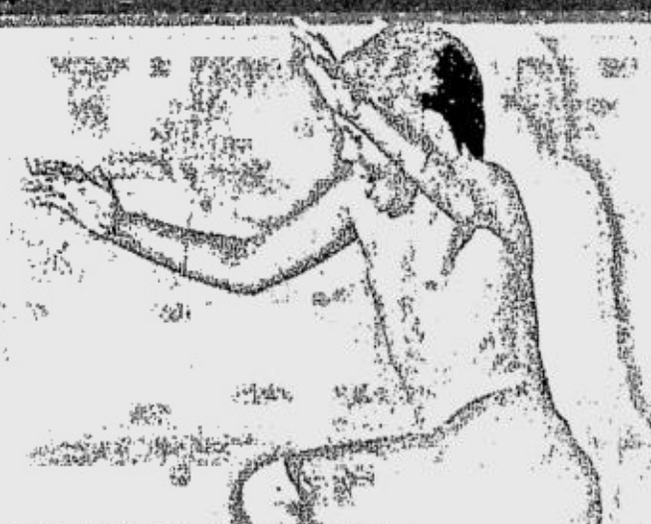

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Suu Kyi free within days

RANGOON—Pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi is about to be freed from house arrest and she expects a breakthrough in the country's political deadlock to be revealed within days, an opposition leader said Thursday.

Tin Oo, the vice chair of Suu Kyi's party, told reporters the Nobel laureate was optimistic when he met her Wednesday at her lakeside residence where she has been held for the last 19 months.

Tin Oo said Suu Kyi "is about to be released" and that her National League for Democracy party is close to an agreement with the junta on other points. He did not elaborate.

He said Suu Kyi told him to inform the media that "the developments will be seen within days."

The country has been rife with expectations that Suu Kyi would be freed following the visit last month of Razali Ismail, a special UN envoy who has been brokering reconciliation talks between the opposition and the junta for the last two years.

In a rare move, Burma's secretive government allowed dozens of foreign journalists into the country Thursday, strengthening speculation about Suu Kyi's release. Such reports have been rumored in the past, but Tin Oo said "this time I think there will be some improvement."

"We are truly optimistic," he said.

Also Thursday, the government restored the telephone connection to the ramshackle NLD headquarters in Rangoon where about 50 party members gathered to obtain information about Suu Kyi.

Party officials wrote out the restored telephone number on a white board at the entrance, urging people who want to see Suu Kyi to call the headquarters first. Inside, party workers prepared arm bands with strips of red fabric and affixed NLD logos—a running peacock—on straw hats.

The international community says Suu Kyi's release is crucial if the junta wants to show its seriousness about political change ahead of restoring democracy in the country, which has been under military dictatorships for the last 40 years. *AP*

Musharraf poll winner amid reports of fraud

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan's General Pervez Musharraf has won an extra five years as president, officials said Wednesday, after a referendum mired in allegations of fraud and vote-rigging.

Musharraf, who seized power in a 1999 coup, secured an overwhelming 97.5 percent of some 43.9 million votes cast in a poll conducted "impartially and peacefully," Chief Election Commissioner Irshad Hassan Khan said in a nationally televised address.

State media reported the turnout represented 54.5 percent of Pakistan's total eligible voters, much higher than opposition claims of 5.0-10 percent.

"People have given their verdict and those who do not accept this are not supporters of democracy," Information Minister Nisar Memon said prior to the result announcement.

Critics slammed the exercise as a farce with grave implications for parliamentary elections due in October, when Musharraf has promised to revive "genuine democracy."

"Apart from anything else the manner in which the people were hustled into voting and the flagrant abuse of election procedures degraded the very concept of democratic choice," said the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP).

In the first independent assessment of the vote, HRCP chair Afrasiab Khattak said: "The people were given an experience that casts ominous shadows on their path to democratic revival."

He said the commission's observers had seen an electoral official being beaten up for refusing to stuff ballot boxes, Musharraf supporters being encouraged to cast multiple votes and basic procedures being ignored.

The commission also backed up media reports that the turnout was generally low, with most ballots cast by state employees and other "captive voters."

With victory for the general assured from the beginning, turnout is being seen as a crucial measure of Musharraf's grassroots support.

Opposition parties claim their campaign to boycott the vote was a success and have demanded Musharraf's resignation.

Raza Rabbani, acting secretary general of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP), said no more than 5.0 percent of voters showed up for Tuesday's ballot. *AFP*

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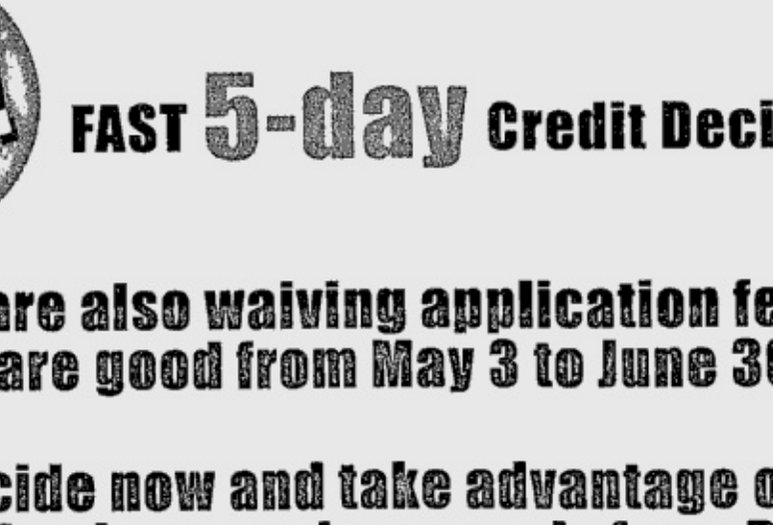

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US, British troops mount new offensive vs al-Qaida fighters

WASHINGTON—More than 1,000 Western troops have launched a new offensive against Taliban and al-Qaida fighters in the eastern Afghan mountains, British and US military officials said on Wednesday.

Britain's ministry of defense said more than 1,000 Royal Marines from 45 Commando Division had been sent to hunt out al-Qaida remnants known to have been active in the region close to the border with Pakistan.

The marines, who have already been on one combat operation since arriving in Afghanistan last month, had not yet encountered any opposition, a spokesperson said.

In Washington a senior US official who asked not to be identified said about 200 soldiers from the US 101st Airborne Division would join the British Marines, Canadian troops and others already involved in the operation.

The Washington Post said up to 1,000 US soldiers could join the operation near the city of Khost, only 32 km from the Pakistan border.

But both the US Central Command based in Tampa, Florida, and the senior US official disputed that figure.

"The number is high. But certainly a large number are being moved," the official said.

The Pentagon believes hundreds of al-Qaida fighters of fugitive Osama bin Laden, blamed for the September attacks on America, and their Taliban allies could be in the area.

One US official confirmed the Post report that the United States had also moved AH-64 "Apache" attack helicopters to a US special forces base near Khost.

US and Afghan troops conducted a major two-week operation in the mountainous region around Gardez in early March. American warplanes dropped more than 2,500 bombs in "Operation Anaconda" on what they said were al-Qaida and Taliban positions.

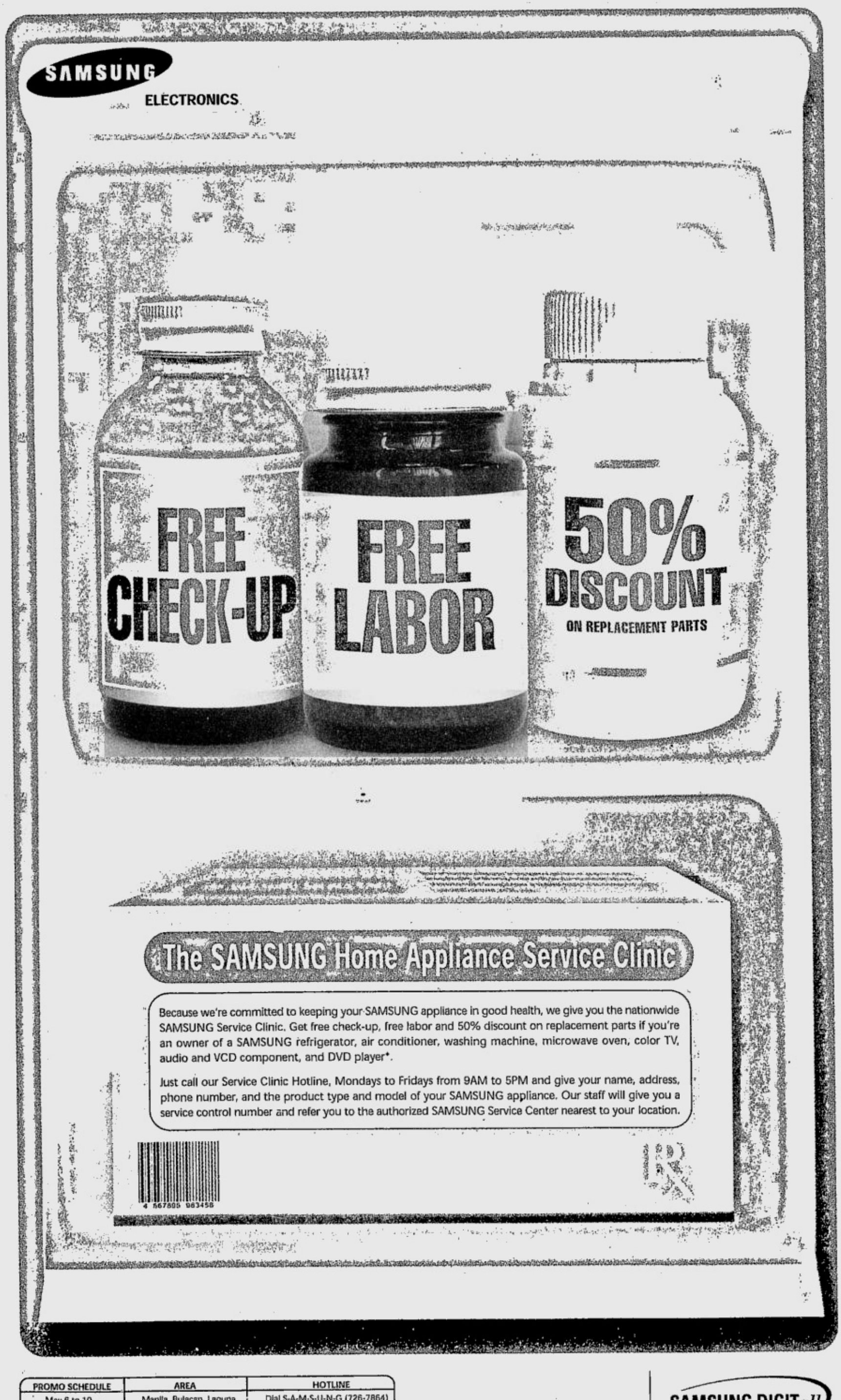
US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld declined to confirm or deny the troop movements, but told reporters at a briefing that al-Qaida were still hiding in Afghanistan and over the border in Pakistan.

"There is no question but that in the two locations I've said—in the country and over the borders—there still are a nontrivial number of those folks that would very much like to take back the country," he said.

"It is our task to see that that doesn't happen," Rumsfeld added. He said he did not personally know of any "actionable" intelligence reports suggesting that bin Laden or other leaders of al-Qaida were hiding on either side of the border. ***Reuters***

MAORI WELCOME AFP

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi (right), on a visit to Australia and New Zealand, gets a traditional Maori welcome from Maori elder Rose White May 2.



Women, kids seen bearing brunt of war

WASHINGTON—Modern-day wars are taking a brutal toll on millions of women and children, with combatants using rape more frequently as a weapon and denying food to civilians, according to a report released on Thursday.

In its report "State of the World's Mothers," the relief group Save The Children compared the well-being of mothers and children in 105 countries, 31 of which were either experiencing or emerging from a conflict.

"Wars are now being fought in backyards and in the streets of cities instead of on more defined battle lines, putting women and children at more risk," said Save the Children's Christine Knudsen, who has worked in Chechnya and Guinea in West Africa.

Around the turn of the 20th century, five percent of all war casualties were civilians, the report said, citing United Nations figures. But that number rose to 65 percent during World War II and jumped to 90 percent in more recent wars.

In the last decade, more than two million children were killed during wars and more than 12 million were orphaned.

The report pointed out that during times of war, women and children were left defenseless against hunger, injury, disease, forced military servitude and sexual exploitation.

Citing one example in Guinea, Knudsen said a 17-year-old girl refugee from Sierra Leone had to sell her body for food or return to the fight with the rebels from whom she had escaped.

Using six indicators, the group measured the status of women in health, literacy, family planning and political participation. Four indicators were used for children—infant mortality, nutritional status, primary school enrollment and access to safe water.

Worst plight

Women in the conflict-ridden countries of Guinea-Bissau, Ethiopia, Yemen, Guinea, Gambia and Nepal fared the worst, while the five best places for women were Switzerland, Canada, Norway, Denmark and Sweden respectively.

The United States and Austria tied for 10th place, while the United Kingdom and the Netherlands ranked sixth.

On a separate children's index, Afghanistan landed at the bottom of the list. In that war-ravaged country, one out of every six children dies before his or her first birthday, 71 percent is not enrolled in school, 88 percent do not have access to safe water and one-quarter suffer from malnutrition.

A woman in Afghanistan was 1,200 times more likely to die during childbirth than a woman in top-ranked Switzerland.

The use of rape against women and girls by combatants was an increasingly common tactic and food was frequently used as a weapon by soldiers, the report said.

In Afghanistan, Sudan and Sierra Leone, for example, soldiers destroyed food supplies in order to starve the enemy population into submission. Donated food intended for women and children was frequently given to troops, the report said.

Knudsen said while the nature of warfare had changed dramatically, the humanitarian response had not adapted.

The care and protection of women in war needed to be given a higher priority and more attention focused on access to basic necessities such as health care, food, education and economic opportunities, said the report.

"Our failure to protect the world's children is most visible in situations of armed conflict—and it is a failure that shames each of us: individuals, groups, governments and nations," wrote Graca Machel, the wife of former South African President Nelson Mandela.

Machel, author of the United Nations study on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children and a former education minister in Mozambique, said women often held together communities during times of war.

"When we fail to meet the needs of mothers affected by war, we fail not only them but also their children." ***Reuters***

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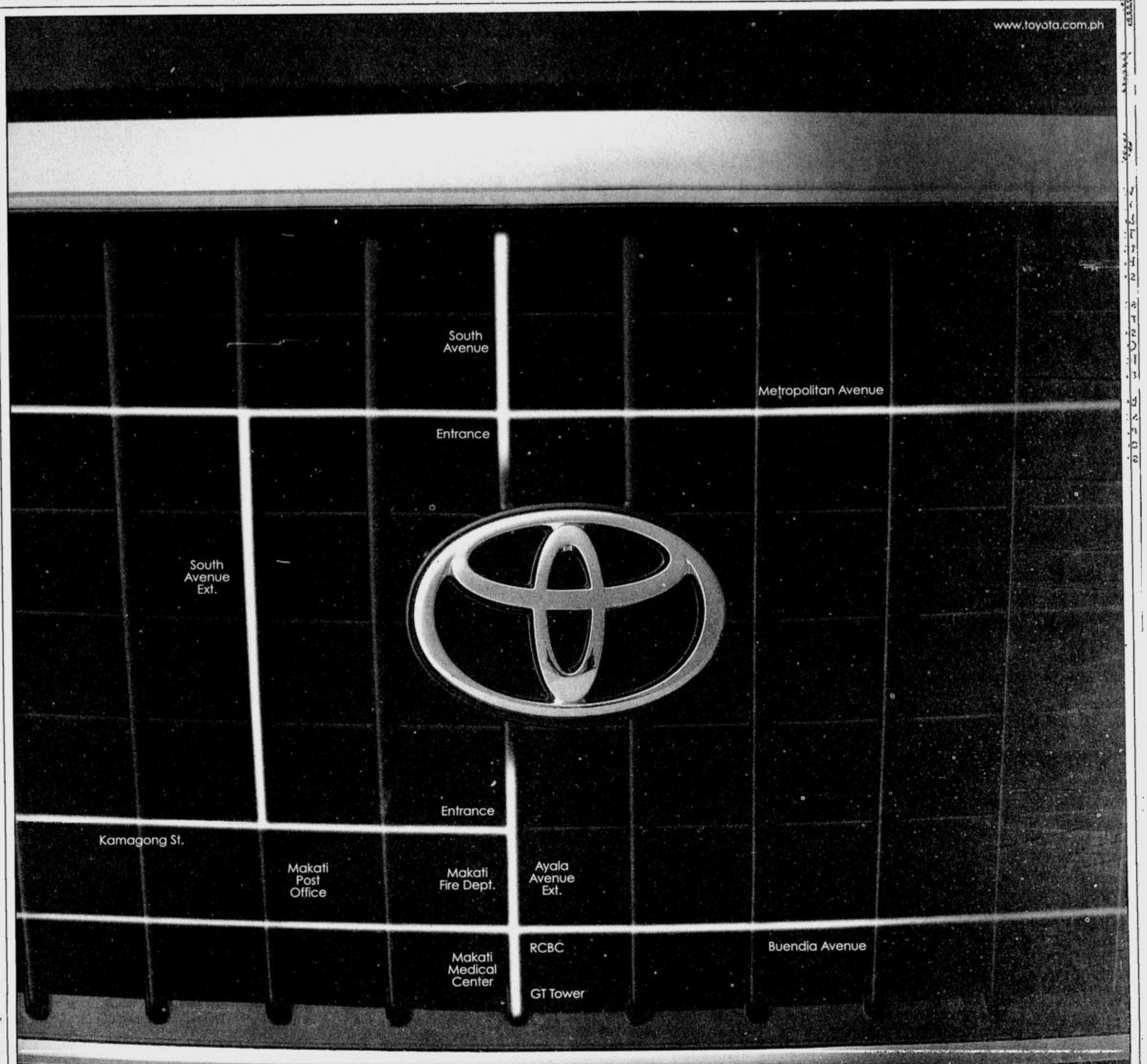

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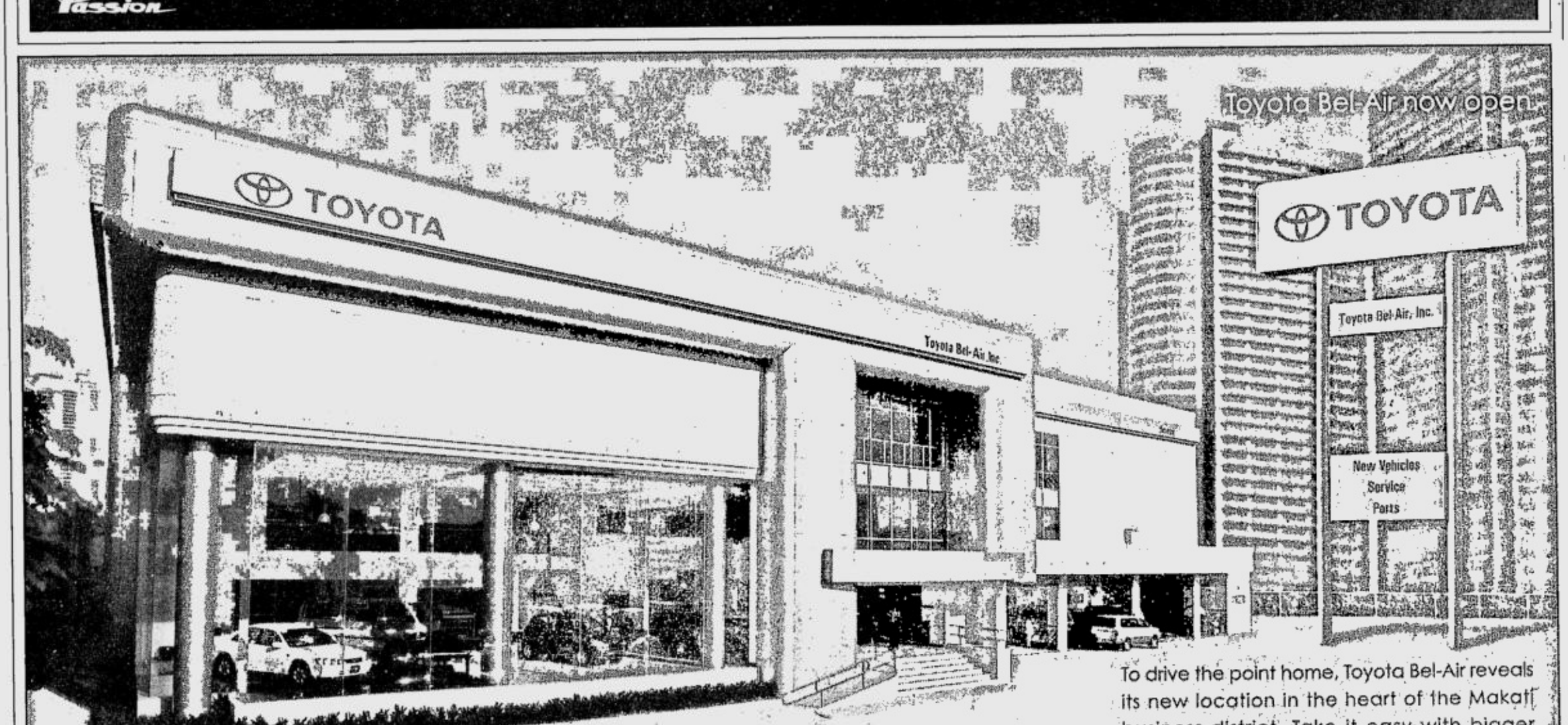

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Protests greet GMA in the provinces

PROTESTS greeted President Macapagal-Arroyo's celebration of Labor Day in various parts of the Visayas and Mindanao.

But in the Visayas, Labor Day themes depended on which side a person is.

For government workers, it was a day to honor the "dignity of labor." But for most militant groups, it was a day to protest the "worsening" plight of Filipino workers.

The militant transport group of Cebu, the Nagkahiusang Drivers sa Sugbo (Nadsu), mounted a strike but failed to paralyze public transport in Metro Cebu.

Leaders said 50 to 80 percent of jeeps did not ply the city's major routes, but police said only 33 percent stayed off the streets.

Cebu City Councilor Gerardo Carillo of the City Disaster Coordinating Council also said the strike had no effect.

He said city-owned buses that were earlier deployed in anticipation of the strike weren't used because there were no stranded commuters to pick up.

MILITANTS march on the streets of Davao City to demand the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo during Labor Day activities in the city. RYAN LIM

Few commuters

Police said there were fewer jeepneys on the streets, not because of the strike but because commuters were few since it was a holiday on Wednesday.

Some drivers simply kept off the streets because of the rerouting of jeepneys away from the Cebu Coliseum, police said.

The coliseum was the venue of Labor Day activities held by the Associated Labor Unions-Trade Union Congress of the Philippines that were attended by the President.

Just several meters from the coliseum, more than 3,000 protesters from the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan Central Visayas and other groups, including the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) and Gabriela, staged a demonstration.

The group wanted to proceed to the coliseum but was stopped by policemen. After a short but tense negotiation, the protesters decided to go to the Metro Gaisano junction road, about 500 meters from the coliseum, for their rally.

In Iloilo, at least 4,000 protesters from three rival groups marched to commemorate Labor Day.

'Worse than Erap'

Some 3,000 workers and members of the KMU and Bayan denounced the Macapagal administration for the "worsening" plight of Filipino workers.

The KMU called for Ms Macapagal's ouster, saying she was "worse" than ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Smaller rallies were held by the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino and the Alab-Katipunan.

KMU members assembled at the dockyard in Barangay Lapuz Norte in La Paz District, considered the cradle of militant trade unionism in the Visayas and Mindanao. This was where the Federacion Obreras de Filipinas (FOF) was founded in 1929.

The KMU, in commemoration of the centennial of the workers' movement in the Philippines, also honored Ilonggo journalist and playwright Jose Ma. Nava, founder of the FOF.

Delegates of the 9th Triennial Convention of the National Priest Organization (NPO) of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente joined the KMU-led protest rally.

Rev. Fr. Nixon Jose, NPO governor general, said they were one with the workers in opposing globalization and other anti-poor policies and programs of the Macapagal administration.

The NPO delegates later held a fluvial parade to Buenavista town on Guimaras Island.

In Tacloban City, an estimated 3,500 government workers, farmers, and members of militant groups separately commemorated the 100th year of labor unionism in the country.

Some 2,000 government workers led by Leyte Gov. Remedios Petilla and acting Tacloban Mayor Edwin Chua held a program early yesterday at the city's Plaza Libertad.

At about the same time, members of militant groups that included the Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage) and the National Housing Authority (NHA) in Eastern Visayas, held a separate rally at the Plaza Rizal, some 500 meters from the Plaza Libertad.

Wage hike

Courage demanded the implementation of a P3,000 across-the-board salary increase for government workers and the granting of a P125 across-the-board wage increase for private sector workers.

Raymundo Clavejo, spokesperson of the NHA Confederation Employees Association-Eastern Visayas, said they joined the rally to dramatize their opposition to the merger of their office with the proposed Department of Housing.

Other militant groups criticized the Macapagal administration over issues ranging from reluctance in implementing agrarian reform to the staging of the RP-US Balikatan war games.

In Bacolod City, about 14,000 workers hit the streets in four separate Labor Day activities to demand government action on what they called "worsening hunger," exacerbated by a dry spell hitting the Negros Occidental countryside.

Rice

On Tuesday, about 7,000 workers camped out at the Provincial Administration Center in Bacolod, demanding from the provincial government their share of seized smuggled rice that the President earlier promised to give to the poor.

Their action prompted Gov. Joseph Marañon to release 25 bags of rice to the protesters.

On Wednesday afternoon, some 6,000 workers joined the KMU-National Federation of Sugar Workers protest on Bonifacio and Luzuriaga streets to demand the ouster of Ms Macapagal.

About 5,000 joined the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino and the Partido ng Manggagawa rally in front of the Fountain of Justice on Araneta Street to press government action against poverty.

At the Bacolod plaza, about 2,000 persons joined the rally of the Democratic Association of Labor Organizations and the Alab Katipunan, and 1,000 others joined the Provincial Labor Council at the Bay Center.

Industrial peace

In Davao City, Ms Macapagal called on labor groups to work for industrial peace.

"We must reduce excessive friction between labor and management. *Magtinabangay kita* (let us work together).

"Let us walk an extra mile for industrial peace and cope with the fast changing economy," Ms Macapagal told a crowd of 5,000 workers at the University of Mindanao Gymnasium in Matina in Davao City on Wednesday.

She said that instead of destroying the economy, the labor sector should work hand in hand with the government to create an atmosphere conducive to business.

In return, she said, her administration would do everything to improve the workers' condition.

As she spoke, thousands of militant workers protested in the downtown area, calling for her ouster.

Thousands of militants, led by the KMU, wanted to go to the UM Gymnasium in Matina District, where Ms Macapagal was addressing members of the TUCP, but they were prevented by the police.

A police cordon confined them near the Ateneo de Davao University, some 400 meters from where Ms Macapagal was speaking.

The protesters, who included government workers under Courage, lambasted the government's "anti-labor" policies by continuing to ignore their plea for wage increases.

Randy Ponteras, chair of Barog-Mindanao, said that instead of looking after the welfare of the labor sector, Ms Macapagal was engaging in rhetorics to "deodorize" her image for the 2004 elections.

Omar Bantayan, acting secretary general of KMU-Southern Mindanao, said that because of her failure to improve the condition of workers, the President should be ousted.

In Bukidnon, about 6,000 people, mostly sugar workers, marched in Valencia City, pressing the government to grant a wage increase of P125 per day.

They warned Ms Macapagal of being rejected if she decided to run in 2004.

Gene Nisperos, deputy secretary general of Bayan-Bukidnon, said the military tried to prevent several participants from joining the protest action.

"They were asked many questions before they were allowed to pass through the checkpoint," Nisperos said.

The President said her administration was working hard to lower the rate of unemployment in the country.

She said that during her first few months in office, the government already created 1.6 million jobs.

Unemployment rate

Ms Macapagal said the country's was reduced by 10.3 percent this year from 11.3 percent during her first month in the presidency.

In Mindanao alone, she said the employment rate increased by 92.47 percent from the previous year's 8.3 percent.

Going by the figures, she said, the government appears to be winning the war against poverty.

But Ponteras said the new jobs would not amount to anything unless the government changes its tack on liberalization.

He cited the case of Davao Union Cement Corp. (DUCC) whose workforce was reduced to only 140 workers from more than 500 workers because of the influx of cheap imported cement. ***With reports from Jhunnex Napallacan, Carla P. Gomez, Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau and Ayan C. Mellejor, Anthony S. Allada, Joel B. Escovilla, Joselle Badilla and Grace Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Workers honor father of unionism in South

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Militant workers on Wednesday honored Ilonggo playwright and journalist Jose Ma. Nava, considered the founder of the trade union movement in the Southern Philippines.

"Nava symbolizes the militant tradition of Ilonggo workers and an inspiration for present-day labor union organizers," said Aurelio Bosque, spokesperson of the Kilusang Mayo Uno in Panay.

His son, Leon, received a citation from the KMU, honoring his father and the Federacion Obrera de Filipinas (FOF).

"If my father were alive today he will certainly be among those protesting on the streets now," said Leon during a rally at the dockyard in Barangay Lapuz Norte in La Paz District, considered the cradle of militant trade unionism in the Visayas and Mindanao. This was where the FOF was founded in 1929.

Jose Ma. Nava headed the FOF, one of the biggest militant labor federations in the country.

He was unceremoniously thrust into the labor movement in January 1928 when Alejandro Chavez came to his office at the Prensa Libre, a Spanish newspaper he edited and published.

Blinded

Chavez was blinded in one eye from an accident while he was working in the dockyard of Visayan Stevedoring Co. He asked for Nava's help to claim compensation as no lawyer in Iloilo City would handle his case.

Nava exposed Chavez's case in his newspaper but hesitated to do more than that. But Chavez kept visiting Nava daily to seek his help.

Nava relented and filed a petition before the Bureau of Labor. After a yearlong legal battle, Chavez was awarded P1,700 by his company.

He offered P400 to Nava as payment for his services, but the editor refused as he did not want to be involved in labor issues.

News of Chavez's victory and Nava's help spread like wildfire among workers who experienced similar problems.

On July 31, 1928, as Nava was celebrating his birthday, about 50 workers came to his house with a resolution signed by 470 more workers, calling for the organization of a labor union.

In January 1929, a meeting attended by worker representatives from several industrial and business firms in the city was held at Barangay Lapuz Norte in Lapaz.

The delegates founded the FOF with Nava as Supreme General President, thus thrusting him into the tumultuous world of the labor movement.

Formidable force

Although he had no background in the labor movement, Nava led the FOF effectively, making it a formidable force in fighting for workers' interests.

At the FOF's height of labor struggle, at least 18 provincial chapters were formed, mostly in the Visayas and Mindanao, with almost a million members.

Thousands of *gremios* (local unions) were formed in sugar centrals, banks, commercial stores, ports and sugar plantations.

Countless successful strikes were held to push for better working conditions, higher wages and greater rights.

After several strikes that lasted for months along the port in Muelle Loney, many workers gained the right to eat on tables with plates, drinking glasses, spoons and forks.

Nava and the FOF earned the ire of capitalists and big landowners, who sent the Philippine Constabulary to quell its protest actions.

Nava was accused of being a communist and was jailed several times, together with other FOF leaders.

But Nava was undaunted. "Papa told us that 'if you cannot fight for your principles you'd better stay put but if you think what you're doing is right, then be ready to die for it,'" said Leon Nava.

Lack of water destroys P39M in Isabela crops

ILAGAN, Isabela—Lack of irrigation water due to extreme heat and lack of rainfall have destroyed more than 13,000 hectares of rice and corn farms in Isabela since March, the provincial agriculturist said.

Danilo Tumamao said the drought destroyed 13,879 hectares of land planted with palay and corn worth P39 million. He said 6,689 hectares of rice land and 7,190 hectares of corn farm were affected.

Tumamao said the amount of damage that the drought wrought on the province is expected to increase as agriculturists from the province's 26 towns and cities have yet to submit their reports.

Among the hardest hit in Isabela are rice farms in Quezon, Sta. Maria, Jones and San Pablo towns, which have accumulated losses of P21.76 million.

The shortage of water in rice farms was aggravated by the lack of water from the irrigation facilities of the National Irrigation Administration-Magat River integrated irrigation system.

The NIA cut off water supply in March to repair canals and rehabilitate other damaged irrigation facilities in the province.

Tumamao said the drought also destroyed 7,190 hectares of corn land in the towns of Tumauini and Jones and Cauayan City. Corn farmers there sufferedP16.37 million in losses.

But the regional NIA office said there would be no rice shortage in Cagayan Valley despite the absence of rainfall.

Vicente Galvez, NIA regional director, said the region has produced 600,000 metric tons of palay during the last cropping season, which are more than the stock requirement of Cagayan Valley.

Isabela is the region's biggest palay producer, contributing 40 percent to the region's total rice production. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Hungry farmers ransack NFA warehouse, take rice sacks

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—About 500 farm workers ransacked the warehouse of the National Food Authority on Gatuslao Street here at about noon on Wednesday and took with them 10 sacks of rice.

They tried to get more sacks of rice from the NFA warehouse at 5 p.m. but were foiled by about 50 policemen armed with shields.

Rosendo Elola, Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino national vice president, said the farm workers decided to get rice from the NFA warehouse after eight of them fainted on Wednesday morning from hunger.

The 500 were part of the 7,000 farm workers who had camped out in front of the Provincial Administration Center here since Tuesday noon to demand a meeting with Gov. Joseph Marañon.

The farmers, who came from different towns and cities in Negros Occidental, wanted the provincial government to provide them food, medicines and livelihood assistance, claiming that they were starving in their homes because the dry spell had wilted their crops.

They could not also find employment because the milling season would start in September yet.

The group was asking the provincial government to declare a state of calamity in Negros Occidental, claiming that the dry spell in the countryside has exacerbated their hunger.

The governor was not able to meet them on Wednesday. But yesterday, he promised the farmers' leaders that the provincial government would give 30 sacks of rice.

Marañon would also form Task Force Gutom to address the reported lack of food in the hinterlands.

Nida Geanga, the provincial government's public affairs office-labor desk officer, said Marañon had authorized the release of 25 bags of rice and sardines to the campers. But these, she added, were apparently not enough.

Early Wednesday morning, about 500 campers went to Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra at the Bishop's House to ask for food and help arrange a dialogue with the governor.

Fr. Aniceto Buenafe said he and Msgr. Danilo Paderna were told by the bishop to attend to the campers after speaking with them.

"We gave them P2,000 and we're trying to help them get a dialogue with Marañon or Vice Gov. Isidro Zayco," he said.

Geanga said most of the campers were convinced to go home late Wednesday afternoon after they were given assurance that Marañon would speak with 100 of their leaders.

Jovani Bitongga, Philippine Sugar Workers Council organizer, said they decided to force open the warehouse of the NFA because they were starving.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi35° Lo 23°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 26° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 28° Lo 18°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 21°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 35° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 28° Lo 23°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 19°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 21°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/05/03/02

Real estate crisis plagues Benguet's 'new Baguio'

BAGUIO CITY—Itogon, which is being considered a "new Baguio," is being plagued by a real estate crisis involving some of the country's oldest mining companies, the Benguet town's mayor told the INQUIRER on Tuesday.

Mayor Mario Godio said mined-out areas and idle land patented by the century-old Benguet Corp., and the defunct Atok Big Wedge Co. remain under these companies' reins, leaving only 10 percent of Itogon's 49,800 hectares open for re-modeling into an alternative summer destination.

The town's real estate predicament has also obstructed a 39,000-hectare watershed rehabilitation program, because Itogon lands identified for reforestation are being claimed by the mines, said Guillermo Fianza, project director of the Lower Agno Integrated Watershed Management Plan (LAIWMP).

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon has tapped Itogon's underdeveloped town to address his disappointment over Baguio's urban decay, based on a recommendation forwarded by the Department of Tourism in Cordillera.

But Godio said the town's land use plans have been restricted by mine patents although mining operations there have ceased.

Atok Big Wedge, and three other mine firms began closing their operations decades ago. Benguet Corp., the country's first mining corporation, gradually suspended its underground and open pit mine operations in the 1990s, and had ventured into the distilled water business.

"We asked the mines to provide us their plans for their patents so we could finalize our land use plan and our master development plans. But when they responded, they indicated their interests in other areas of Itogon, much to our surprise. That's when we realized we only had 10 percent left," Godio said.

He said Itogon is, in fact, fighting with nearby Tuba town over tax shares generated from one of these mining firms.

The towns entered into a memorandum of agreement five years ago which allowed them to evenly share the tax revenue generated from the operation of Philex Mining Corp., whose facilities straddle Tuba and Itogon.

But this year, following the local government elections, the town governments started asserting their individual stakes over P8 million in mining revenue from 2000 to 2001. ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

RP to lease property in Japan for veterans

BAGUIO CITY—Pieces of Philippine property in Tokyo will be leased out to finance the long delayed pensions of Filipino war veterans, according to the administrator of the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office.

Artemio Arugay said he had helped draft plans for Malacañang to lease out the pieces of property in Roppongi and Kobe districts in Tokyo as well as two pieces of PVAO prime real estate to fulfill a presidential commitment to pay veterans up to P22 billion in delayed pensions and benefits.

Arugay also launched the PVAO website on Friday, which would make transparent the agency's administrative and fiscal transactions.

He shared these reform options with about 70 surviving members of the 66th Infantry Brigade during the 57th anniversary celebration here of the 1945 liberation of Baguio from the Japanese Imperial Army at the end of World War II.

"No more bonds, no more certificates of indebtedness. The President (Macapagal-Arroyo) has instructed us to do away with those (options to financing veterans' pension benefits). Real estate *na lang*," Arugay said.

He was referring to an idle 3,179.10-square meter lot in the Roppongi district, where the Philippine Embassy once stood. Another property up for lease is located in Nampeddai-Mochi in Tokyo's Shibuya-ka District.

The Aquino administration had tried but failed to dispose of the Roppongi property after the 1986 Edsa Revolution because of legal prescriptions that prohibit its sale when the land was donated to the Philippine government, Arugay said.

"So our next option is to lease it out, and use it to finance our debts to the veterans. We are also leasing out an idle (PVAO property) near the Quezon City Hall, and we are modernizing and commercializing the Veterans Memorial Medical Center into a world-class hospital so we can use its revenue to finance the pensions," he told the INQUIRER.

The President had increased the veterans' pensions from P4,500 to P5,000.

Arugay said the Palace had also secured a commitment from Congress to finance mandatory benefits provided by Republic Act 7696, which had never been applied or were discontinued due to the fund crisis.

He said the country already obtained a commitment from US President George W. Bush that the US government would back two American measures that would formally absorb the Filipino war veterans as official members of US armed forces, and are therefore entitled to US military benefits.

Bush also promised to support US Senate Bill 1042, which would allow Filipino veterans access to American health care benefits.

But Malacañang is still rushing its real estate option, Arugay said, because "the President already said our Filipino veterans cannot wait any longer." ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Hagedorn cleared by Ombudsman

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The Office of the Ombudsman has cleared former mayor Edward S. Hagedorn of one of two graft cases filed against him by members of the Sangguniang Panglunsod.

A four-page decision of the Ombudsman released last week said there was no basis to pursue the case. Hagedorn was accused of violating section 3(e) of Republic Act 3019 or the Anti-graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

The Ombudsman also said in its resolution that the case lacked probable cause.

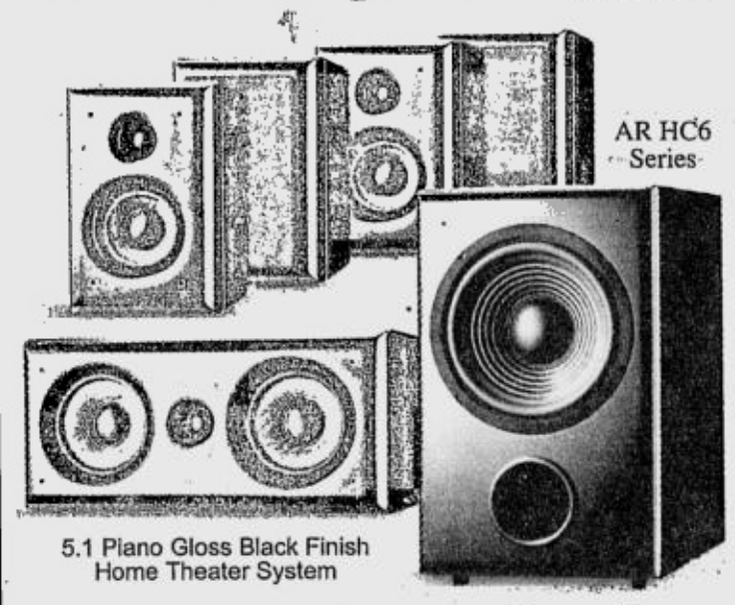
The case was one of two graft cases filed by Councilors Nesario Awat and Filiberto Oliveros III against Hagedorn, former city administrator Lucilo Bayron, former assistant city administrator Ronualdo Velasco and city treasurer Rogelio Hitosis in January.

The case was filed based on an alleged "sweetheart deal" entered into by the respondents and Transport Equipment Corp. on Jan. 12, 2001, involving the purchase of four units of heavy equipment for P23.6 million.

According to the complaint, the purchase was made without going through public bidding and without a resolution from the city council.

The complainants also alleged that on the same date, Hagedorn released P22,500 as advance payment for the heavy equipment, a violation of section 388 of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act. ***Geraldford P. Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

We've an eye for detail.



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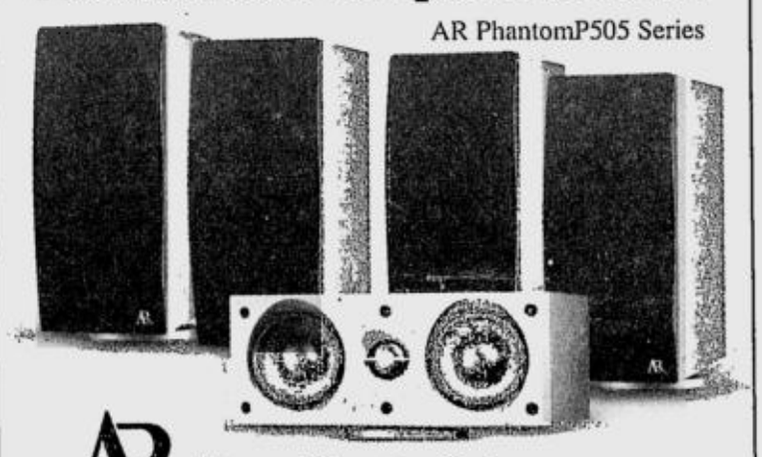

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Unknown	-do-	-do-	MISU2363430/20
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Kuehne & Nagel	circuit breaker.	8/20/00	TRIU1621216/20
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Unknown	computer monitor	9/30/99	KMTU9004094
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HS Pow Construction	aluminum bodies	4/18/01	HLXU6094009
ICTC	used tires	8/15/01	HLCU4120700
Atlanta Ind.	Clamps	8/5/01	MAEU6779425
Unknown	personal effects	7/14/00	PONU0849605
Irish Meat & Bone	fish meal	1/5/01	UXXU2380778

(Sgd.) ATTY. NAPOLEON B. GATMAYTAN
Chief, Law Division

Noted by:

(Sgd.) ATTY. EMELITO V. VILLARUZ
District Collector, MICP

May 3, 2002 – Inquirer

Political summit starts on sour note

From page A1

terror tactics of the administration," Angara said.

"We cannot pretend that everything is normal in the political environment while the administration is routinely violating the basic rights of peaceful assembly and intimidating the political opposition," he added.

Destroying democratic opposition

Angara said a political summit should be held under a friendly environment in order to promote the highest ideals of democracy and to forge consensus on political and economic reforms.

He accused the President of trying to destroy all forms of democratic and constructive opposition.

Despite the LDP boycott, "the summit will push through," House Deputy Secretary General Noel Albano said.

Albano, De Venecia's spokesperson, said 90 percent of the participants were attending the summit. Before the boycott, De Venecia had expected 21 political parties, including party-list groups, to attend the summit.

Albano said the Speaker was still reaching out to the LDP leaders, who were part of the summit preparations from the start.

Hypocrisy

Lacson said attending the summit would be "hypocrisy of the highest order."

"How can a political summit achieve its noble objectives if the leader of the country does not even lead the way? How can a political summit achieve its aims if the administration resorts to dirty politics and double talk?" Lacson said.

Sen. Blas Ople said the crackdown on the legitimate opposition and the workers was a big disappointment.

He said there were "worrying signs" of gross disrespect for the freedom of assembly, of speech and of association on the part of the government.

"It is surprising that after extending the hand of friendship to the administration, major leaders of the opposition were to be labeled rebels so that they could be arrested and immobilized," Ople told a press conference.

'Creeping militarization'

In a statement, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, PDP-Laban national president, said the party was joining the LDP and the House minority bloc in protesting the dispersal of peaceful rallies by workers and plans to arrest Angara.

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla (Nueva Ecija) and Assistant Minority Leader Constantino Jaraula (Cagayan de Oro City) said the LDP was also protesting the "creeping militarization" in the administration.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said he expected nothing "dramatic" from the summit as it would merely approve the administration's agenda.

Failing programs

"The participation of the different political parties might be used to legitimize the failing programs of the administration," Biazon said.

A Palace spokesperson denied that President Macapagal-Arroyo, who will deliver the keynote speech at 10 a.m. today, tried to impose her own agenda for the political summit.

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr. denied that the President got upset during the last Cabinet meeting upon learning of the summit's agenda.

"She just asked a number of questions from (adviser on political affairs) Secretary (Joey) Rufino to clarify items concerning the dovetailing of government programs and the goals of the political summit," he said.

Afable said Ms Macapagal did not interfere with the agenda since the summit was independently organized by leaders of major political parties and groups.

"She realizes this is a democratic exercise in which consensus must be the rule," he said.

Afable, the President's main speechwriter, said she would deliver a "major policy speech" at the summit.

The President will speak of "constructive engagement" in which political parties do not engage in "too much partisanship," Afable said.

Systematic repression

At the Department of Justice (DOJ), Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo yesterday warned of a "systematic political repression" aimed at activists identified with the Left movement.

He noted that 17 Bayan Muna leaders and members were killed in separate occasions last year in Southern Tagalog and other areas in the countryside.

Despite Bayan Muna's move to shift its struggle from the parliament of the streets to the halls of Congress, Ocampo said that the military's decades-old view of militant activists had not changed.

Ocampo yesterday went to the DOJ to personally ask the help of Justice Secretary Hernando Perez to "give justice" to the victims.

He said the DOJ should immediately look into the matter so as to erase doubts that the government was engaged in double talk in dealing with the Left.

"The (government), on one hand, is encouraging (us to come out), while on the other it is somehow driving us back to the (situation) where the Bayan Muna is treated as an enemy of the government. We want to know what's the real score," said Ocampo.

He said that the killings and abductions last year were not isolated incidents.

"We noticed that our grassroots workers were being killed one-by-one. So we want to know if we are right in saying that there's a real pattern (of systematic repression)," he said. ***With a report from Juliet Javellana***

Gloria: We passed test of country's stability

From page A1

Supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada failed to mount a rebellion last Wednesday, a year after they stormed Malacañang, while militant groups maintained peaceful assemblies.

Malacañang had earlier disputed the claim by proponents of the so-called Freedom Force that the country was a rumbling political volcano waiting to explode, with rightist and leftist groups waiting in the wings to take over.

The President, who was interviewed from Cagayan where she presided over the first regional development council and peace and order council meetings in Region 2, said "it is now possible to do business-as-usual in running the government."

She has instructed Cabinet members to help her reach out to the masses in order for the country to attain political unity.

"Since we came out of it victorious, let's be magnanimous," the President said of her orders to her officials.

Ms Macapagal noted that the Estrada camp had tried to repeat Edsa III, the assault on Malacañang on May 1, 2001, "but they were only good to a certain point."

Golez said that quarters responsible for the series of destabilization moves against the government had realized that "it's better for them to behave."

"That's how it's coming up," Golez said when asked whether certain anti-government quarters were expected to drop their plans to topple the Macapagal administration and just concentrate on the coming elections.

Golez said the peaceful conduct of the May 1 rallies showed that Ms Macapagal was "in full control and that there is no question about the stability of this government."

"Now the government can attend to its normal focus of governance," he said.

Arrest awaits . . .

From page A1

presidential election last March when Robert Mugabe won another six-year term. He has been Zimbabwe's president for 22 years.

"He would not have won if there was no cheating," Nyarota told the INQUIRER.

"Telling it like it is" is the slogan of Nyarota's paper which was established in 1999. But Nyarota has been a crusading journalist since 1988. He has been arrested five times. He regularly receives death threats. Last January The Daily News printing press in the Zimbabwe capital of Harare was bombed and damaged beyond repair.

It was not the first time. In April 2000, Nyarota's newspaper office was bombed. Luckily no one was hurt. But the message of the two bombings was clear, said Nyarota: the Daily News must close down.

"The government has not bothered to find out who was behind it. Nobody has been arrested. Both cases have died a very sudden death," he said.

The bombings were a manifestation of the relationship of the Mugabe government with the independent press, Nyarota said.

"There's a very hostile relationship. The government publicly declares the journalists of the independent press as enemies," he said.

But the public in Zimbabwe is aware of the realities in the country. The population is "highly literate" so they tend to have a great interest in public affairs, Nyarota said.

Through the arrests, the bombings and the death threats, Nyarota has never missed publishing a single issue of The Daily News. It has been consistently exposing corruption and other scandals in the government.

"We don't respect any sacred cow. We publish the news as we see it. We highlight the event as we see them in the interest of our readers," Nyarota said.

The Unesco award which he will receive today in Malacañang from President Macapagal-Arroyo inspires Nyarota's newspaper to continue with its work of "telling the truth." It gives hope, Nyarota said, to the alternative press in Zimbabwe that its efforts are not in vain.

"We have to fight for our freedom. This is a step in the right direction because the government will then realize that Zimbabwe is not an island, events in the country are being noticed," he said.

The Daily News based in Harare is the first real alternative newspaper in Zimbabwe where the Mugabe government mostly controls the press. In Zimbabwe, it's a daily struggle for the free press.

Last month, the Mugabe government passed a law called "access to information and protection of privacy." It basically protects the "privacy" of public figures and government officials. If newspapers report certain facts about a politician, and the government denounces the news as false, there can be "dire consequences," Nyarota explained.

A journalist can be arrested, charged, prosecuted and imprisoned for up to two years.

This is still apart from the usual libel law being used against journalists.

The new law also bans foreign ownership of media institutions.

Under the new media law, Nyarota could be sentenced to jail and his newspaper closed down.

"There is no substance to these charges. Our stories were solid and our cases are airtight. The government charges will not hold up in court. I will not abandon the Daily News and my family and my country," Nyarota told the INQUIRER.

The Zimbabwe media is dominated by the government-run broadcast stations. The two big newspapers, The Herald and The Chronicle, are run by private companies whose majority shareholder is the government, Nyarota explained.

In fact, the government controls the board of editors of the two newspapers. They are virtual mouthpieces and propaganda machines for the Mugabe government.

Before he established The Daily News in 1999, Nyarota had worked for the government-controlled newspaper, The Chronicle.

He was the editor of The Chronicle from 1983 to 1989. He was removed from office after the paper dug up corruption in government, a scandal that forced five Cabinet ministers to resign. One of them committed suicide.

"But long before they resigned, long before the President appointed a commission on inquiry, I had been relieved of my responsibility as the editor of the paper," Nyarota said.

The paper came out with the story in 1988. From then on, there had been pressure for him to resign, he said. He resigned in 1989.

With the exposé in The Chronicle in what had been called "the Willowgate Scandal," government all the more tightened its control of its newspapers.

The publication of corruption in what was supposedly a government-controlled paper was a "turning point of sorts for the publishing industry," Nyarota said.

Dance blast: Terror act or drunken spree?

From page A1

dance party at the Notre Dame Village here.

At least seven persons were killed and more than a hundred others, mostly minors, were wounded.

While Malacañang and police regional officials were quick to say that the incident was part of a plot to sow terror in major cities in Mindanao, city police officials said only a group of drunken partygoers was involved.

Quevedo, who is also president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), called on people of different faiths to join in prayer to end the chain of criminality in the country.

He issued the appeal even as another bombing attempt, this time at a busy bus terminal on Magallanes Street, was foiled by authorities yesterday.

An improvised bomb found in front of the Weena Bus Terminal was detonated after people became suspicious of a package placed at a waiting shed and alerted lawmen.

The latest explosion prompted the city council to declare a state of calamity.

In Manila, acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr. deplored the incident as an "act of terrorism."

"This incident has been very unfortunate. And the Palace is deeply affected by the plight of victims of terrorism and their families," he said.

The victims, both Muslims and Christians, were attending a dance party on the grounds of the St. Joseph the Worker Parish when the bomb exploded.

Like Bethlehem

"Even the sacredness of the day and the sacredness of the place have been treated with disdain," Quevedo said.

He said it is well known that churches, mosques and temples are sacred.

"They are places of refuge rather than of hatred and destruction. Even now people who seek safety go to the church and its grounds. Even if they belong to another faith, they feel safe, such as what is now happening in the Catholic Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem," Quevedo said.

He was referring to armed Palestinians who have been holed up with religious leaders and devotees inside the Church of the Nativity for the past several weeks following an "anti-terror" siege by Israeli soldiers.

"The massacre of innocent individuals is already a most terrible crime, a dastardly act of the basest kind. The attack against them on church premises makes the crime even more condemnable," he said in a statement released in Manila.

Quevedo called on all religious leaders to condemn the crime committed against innocent people.

He appealed to local authorities to thoroughly investigate and solve the bombing incident, and bring its perpetrators to justice as quickly as possible to ensure that such violence would not happen again.

"This crime must not be added to the already long list of unsolved crimes in the city. It must be solved. We owe this to the families who are now suffering, to our people of many different faiths, to the security of our city," he said.

"I appeal to our people to help the authorities with information on this infamy," Quevedo said.

Terror group?

Senior Supt. Bartolome Baluyot, Central Mindanao police director, said the suspects in the blast were members of the same group that was behind the series of explosions there.

"The explosion . . . was part of the group's plan to sow terror and disorder in major cities in Mindanao, such as Zamboanga, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, General Santos, Koronadal and many more," Baluyot told reporters in General Santos City.

Acting Press Secretary Afable said the bombing was likely connected to the series of bombings in General Santos.

The perpetrators have become "desperate" due to the intensified police and military crackdown, he said. ***Reports from Edwin O. Fernandez, Charlie C. Señase, Aquiles Z. Zonio and Joselle d.R. Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Armand Nocum and Dona Pazzibugan, and AFP***

It's back to Karen and Gina

From page A1

pulled out a TV commercial showing a young girl receiving French fries under the table from her "Dada" (father) in exchange for her favorable reply to his questions.

McDonald's withdrew the commercial after Senate President Pro Tempore Manny Villar and Sen. Juan Flavier raised an uproar over it, saying it was sending the wrong message to viewers.

Flavier and Villar, known for espousing the value of hard work and discipline, said the advertisement may look "cute" at first but in the end, it projected the wrong values of bribery and dishonesty among children and adults.

Informed of the senators' negative reaction, Manny Gutierrez, customer service officer of McDonald's, called up Villar and assured the senator that the commercial would be pulled out immediately.

Villar said Nick Gabunada, senior vice president for sales of ABS-CBN, confirmed the pullout. Gabunada said ABS-CBN received instructions not to use the controversial "Dada" ad.

In its stead is the multi-awarded "Karen and Gina" commercial, which was widely accepted by viewers, including Flavier, because of its appeal to the youth and the elderly. The ad had also become a household vignette.

The "Karen and Gina" commercial shows Karen, a teenage girl whom her senile grandfather mistakes for "Gina." In the end, the grandfather is shown halving his cheeseburger and wrapping the other half for his "favorite" granddaughter, Karen.

The gesture brings a smile to the teenager who had thought her grandfather had forgotten her.

Villar lauded McDonald's for its decision. "It at least shows that they (McDonald's) are willing to accept that they indeed made a mistake with the particular advertisement," he said.

"Their swift action on this matter shows that they know how to act in response to valid criticisms," he said.

Villar advised advertisers to be more discerning with the kind of commercials they use to promote their products.

"They must be sensitive to Filipino values and see to it that it does not influence viewers in a negative way," he said.

RP fighter jet explodes in air over Pampanga; pilot killed

From page A1

33, of the 5th Fighter Wing in Basa Air Base in Floridablanca town.

Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor, PAF commanding general, immediately ordered the grounding of the Air Force's fleet of F-5 fighter jets. "We have to find the immediate cause of the crash, that's why we grounded the planes," Defensor said in an interview over radio station dzBB.

Durano said the 5th Fighter Wing has at least 15 F-5s.

Landing gear

What was left of the aircraft blew up upon impact, its debris strewn within a 1-km radius of the crash site, said Maj. Allan Ballesteros of the PAF's 600th Air Base Wing. The jet's landing gear and 20-mm cannon were found in Barangay San Joaquin, which was near Poblacion.

At the crash site, a team of PAF servicemen gathered the aircraft's parts while US Marines stood guard.

Hundreds of residents gathered at the site, some cursing the Balikatan for the risk it posed to their lives.

"If classes were going on, hundreds of children could have died," eyewitness Velasquez told the INQUIRER at the crash site. Custodian Medina said more than 1,500 students attend class in the school.

Three residents—Roberto Canlas, 47; teacher Jessie Rivera, 59; and school janitor Emilio de la Cruz, 43—suffered third-degree burns. The jet hit the schoolroom where they were working, according to Poblacion Barangay Captain Amauri Tiglao.

Antonio Samson, San Joaquin councilman, said shrapnel-like debris from the aircraft wounded Romy Samson, 42; Gwyneth Conde, 2; Jennifer Conde, 27; and Amalia Esguerra, 29. They are all residents of Barangay Mamatitang, another village near the crash site.

Debris also wounded Virginia Garcia, 69, in the back; she was washing clothes behind the school fence during the time of the incident. Samson said Daniel David, 2; Buenaventura Mercado, 57; and Lolita Manalang had cuts in various parts of their bodies.

All the injured were taken to the Tiglao General Hospital. The burn victims were later transferred to the Air Force Hospital in Clark.

Samson said at least 33 houses in San Joaquin were damaged after these were hit by debris from the plane.

Mayor Marino Morales demanded an "immediate, exhaustive investigation," the temporary cessation of flights by the PAF in the Mabalacat area and reparation for the victims.

Speaking to the INQUIRER by phone from Cagayan de Oro, where he was attending a conference of the League of Municipalities in the Philippines, Morales said he was "angry, sad and worried" over the incident.

Lengthy investigation

Defensor hinted that the investigation would take longer than usual, noting that the ill-fated plane was a total wreck and that the pilot perished in the crash.

"I understand it's a complete wreck. It would be hard to analyze the cause of the crash if the plane exploded," Defensor said, adding that "it would be hard to pinpoint the cause because even the pilot perished in the crash."

He said he would welcome any offer by the US Air Force to help in the investigation. "Whatever help they will extend to us, we'll consider (it) because they have the expertise in fighter flying," he said.

Defensor said the pilot communicated with the Air Force traffic controller before the crash, but said he did not yet know the content of the message.

"There was communication before landing, but I don't know exactly what the communication was. They were actually almost (in) the final stage of landing. But during the moment of the crash, apparently there was no communication," he said.

The crash occurred on the 65th anniversary of the Army Air Corps, the precursor of the Philippine Air Force that was created in 1947, according to Col. Charles Hotchkiss, deputy commander of the PAF's 600th Air Base Wing in Clark.

Major Ballesteros said the aircraft took off from Clark at 9 a.m. and flew to the Marine Base in Ternate, Cavite, to take part in the military exercises. Upon returning to Clark more than an hour later, the jet crashed.

The ill-starred plane flew with another F-5 of the PAF and two FA-18 Hornet fighter jets of the US Marine Corps, rehearsing for an amphibious landing in Ternate, according to Col. Danilo Ferrer, Balikatan PAF director in Clark.

The Balikatan flights will end on Monday and the aircraft were to participate in the closing ceremony, Ferrer said.

Approaching from the north, the three aircraft reached Clark safely. Policarpio's almost 40-year-old F-5 flew low before it exploded in the air, witnesses said.

Only half of Policarpio's face remained intact at the crash site. PAF investigators said parts of Policarpio's body were scattered in five separate sites in the school compound, which is near the municipal hall here.

Thursday's crash was the PAF's fourth in the last 15 months, and the Balikatan's third. In March last year, an OV-10 Bronco bomber plane crashed in this town, killing the woman pilot and injuring a male co-pilot. Last January, an S-211 trainer jet plowed through a residential area in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija, killing its two pilots.

The third PAF accident occurred only last Friday, in Clark's Diosdado Macapagal International Airport, when an MG520 helicopter crashed. There were no casualties. It was also the second Balikatan-related aircraft disaster, after a US Chinook helicopter went down last February, killing all 10 US servicemen on board.

Ferrer said all 19 aircraft in the Air Force Balikatan contingent have been grounded again as a result of the accident. ***With a report from TJ Burgonio***

Filipinos disenchanted with democracy, UP survey shows

From page A1

"Democracy is the best political system in all circumstances," 72 percent also agree on "the possibility that Filipinos will completely lose faith in peaceful means of promoting democracy." Here we have a clear warning from our citizens that time is running out on blind complacency and politics as usual on the part of our political leaders and citizens alike.

Recurring crises

What is behind the people's disenchantment with our political institutions and political leaders? In the 15 years since Edsa I, and under our 1987 Constitution, we have restored and modified our pre-martial law democratic institutions. However, our modest economic development, ineffective governance, political instability, unabated corruption, and rapid population growth have prevented us from achieving the degree of national progress we all want in an increasingly competitive world.

Mass poverty, unemployment and underemployment, homelessness, social inequality and injustice, low levels of social services, endemic corruption, rebellion and criminality, and environmental degradation are still very much with us. Unable to mobilize the needed revenues for public investments in infrastructure and for social services, our government is increasingly dependent on domestic and foreign borrowing and indebtedness.

Obviously, our aspirations for peace, national unity, reducing poverty, curbing corruption, and bringing about a just and humane society continue to elude us. Our post-Edsa political system and our political leaders have not provided the nation with the badly needed institutional framework, leadership and policies for overcoming our chronic and worsening problems.

Critical deficit

According to Freedom House, the Philippines is "high in political freedom and civil liberties," along with Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, India and Thailand. However, the Philippines is much lower in "human development," as measured by the United Nations Development Program, compared to democratic Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand, and to authoritarian Singapore and Malaysia. While the Philippines ranks higher in "human development" vis-à-vis India and China because of their much larger population, both countries have far larger and more dynamic economies that will better enable them to respond to their social and economic problems.

It appears that the single most important factor that has set us behind the so-called "tiger economies" in East Asia is our lack of "good governance." The latter may be defined as responsive, efficient and effective policy-making and implementation under the rule of law. Good governance depends crucially on effective political institutions, the political will of competent and committed leaders, effective and accountable political parties, and the support and cooperation of a dynamic business sector and civic-spirited citizens. To use Gunnar Myrdal's metaphor, our "soft state" prevents us from governing effectively to help solve our basic problems and meet our people's needs.

Urgent change

There is growing consensus among leaders, scholars and experts that nothing less than the transformation of our political system is in order. This requires the revision of our present Constitution, basic reforms in our party system and electoral system, and appropriate policy changes. Also needed in the long term are societal change and the development of a civic culture of responsible leaders and responsible citizens. To meet these requirements, appreciable progress in reducing poverty and achieving equitable economic growth is obviously necessary. It is the familiar "chicken and egg" dilemma.

In a word, our monumental challenge as a nation is to transform our "electoral or procedural democracy" into "substantive democracy" which delivers to most people its promised social, economic, political, cultural and spiritual blessings.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has the unenviable responsibility of governing the nation in this critical juncture of our history and development. She also has the historic opportunity to lead the process of fundamental reform and transformation. *(The former president of the University of the Philippines, Abueva is president of Kalayaan College at Riverbanks Center, Marikina.)*

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	5J - 559	Daily	B757	0500	0610			-	
	5J - 559	**Daily**	**B757***	**0500**	**0610**	P3,219	P3,019	P2,899	-
	5J - 561	Daily	DC9	0700	0810	P2,899	P2,569	-	P2,199
	5J - 563	Daily	DC9	0900	1010			-	
	5J - 565	Daily	DC9	1100	1210			-	
	5J - 567	Daily	DC9	1300	1410			-	
	5J - 569	Daily	DC9	1500	1610			-	
*Business Class Available	5J - 571	Daily	DC9	1700	1810			-	
DAVAO	5J - 961	Daily	DC9	0500	0640	P3,667	P3,239	-	P2,699
	5J - 963	Daily	B757	0930	1110			-	
	5J - 963	**Daily**	**B757***	**0930**	**1110**	P4,039	P3,839	P3,667	-
	5J - 965	Daily	DC9	1300	1440	P3,667	P3,239	-	P2,699
*Business Class Available	5J - 967	Daily	DC9	1600	1740			-	
CAGAYAN de ORO	5J - 381	Daily	DC9	0510	0635	P3,645	P3,239	-	P2,699
	5J - 383	Daily	DC9	0930	1055			-	
	5J - 385	Daily	DC9	1140	1305			-	
TACLOBAN	5J - 651	Daily	DC9	0610	0720	P2,899	P2,569	-	P2,199
	5J - 655	Daily	DC9	1210	1320			-	
	5J - 657	Daily	DC9	1410	1520			-	
ILOILO	5J - 451	Daily	DC9	0500	0600	P2,779	P2,449	-	P2,199
	5J - 453	Daily	DC9	0720	0820			-	
	5J - 455	Daily	DC9	0955	1055			-	
	5J - 459	Daily	DC9	1600	1700			-	
BACOLOD	5J - 473	Daily	DC9	0610	0710	P2,779	P2,449	-	P2,199
	5J - 475	Daily	DC9	1000	1100			-	
	5J - 479	Daily	DC9	1650	1750			-	
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 851	Daily	DC9	0620	0750	P3,667	P3,239	-	P2,699
ROXAS	5J - 373	Daily	DC9	0530	0630	P2,539	P2,199	-	P1,999
DUMAGUETE	5J - 627	Daily	DC9	1340	1450	P2,899	P2,569	-	P2,199
KALIBO	5J - 339	Daily	DC9	0900	0950	P2,899	P2,569	-	P2,199
	5J - 341	Daily	DC9	0950	1040			-	
BUTUAN	5J - 787	Daily	DC9	1000	1125	P3,645	P3,239	-	P2,699

ORIGIN: CEBU

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	PROMOTIONAL
MANILA	5J - 558	Daily	DC9	0500	0610	P2,899	P2,569	P2,309
	5J - 560	Daily	B757	0700	0810			-
	5J - 560	**Daily**	**B757***	**0700**	**0810**	P3,219	P3,019	P2,899
	5J - 562	Daily	DC9	0900	1010	P2,899	P2,569	-
	5J - 564	Daily	DC9	1100	1210			-
	5J - 566	Daily	DC9	1300	1410			-
	5J - 568	Daily	DC9	1500	1610			-
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*Business Class Available	5J - 572	Daily	DC9	1900	2010			-
DAVAO	5J - 593	Daily	DC9	0800	0850	P2,589	P2,249	-
	5J - 597	Daily	DC9	1450	1540			-
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 431	Tu/Th/Sat	DC9	1005	1100	P2,649	P2,319	-
ILOILO	5J - 164	Daily	DC9	1750	1825	P2,099	P1,759	-
BACOLOD	5J - 126	M/W/Th/Sat	DC9	1100	1130	P1,879	P1,539	-
CLARK	5J - 588	Tu/F/Sun	DC9	1100	1220	P2,995	P2,669	-

ORIGIN: DAVAO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	PROMOTIONAL	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 962	Daily	DC9	0720	0900	P3,667	P3,239	-	P2,699
	5J - 964	Daily	B757	1210	1350			-	
	5J - 964	**Daily**	**B757***	**1210**	**1350**	P4,039	P3,839	P3,667	-
	5J - 966	Daily	DC9	1520	1700	P3,667	P3,239	-	P2,699
*Business Class Available	5J - 968	Daily	DC9	1820	2000			-	
CEBU	5J - 594	Daily	DC9	0930	1020	P2,589	P2,249	-	P2,049
	5J - 598	Daily	DC9	1620	1710			-	
ILOILO –via Cebu	5J - 598/164	Daily	DC9	1620	1825	P3,645	P3,195	-	P2,699
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 393	M/W/F/Sun	DC9	1010	1110	P2,649	P2,319	-	P2,199

ORIGIN: BACOLOD

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 474	Daily	DC9	0800	0900	P2,779	P2,449	P2,199
	5J - 476	Daily	DC9	1150	1250			
	5J - 480	Daily	DC9	1840	1940			
CEBU	5J - 125	M/W/Th/Sat	DC9	1220	1250	P1,879	P1,539	P1,399

ORIGIN: BUTUAN

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 788	Daily	DC9	1205	1330	P3,645	P3,239

ORIGIN: ILOILO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 454	Daily	DC9	0900	1000	P2,779	P2,449
	5J - 456	Daily	DC9	1135	1235		
	5J - 460	Daily	DC9	1740	1840		
	5J - 462	Daily	DC9	1905	2005		
CEBU	5J - 161	Daily	DC9	0640	0715	P2,099	P1,759
DAVAO –via Cebu	5J - 161/593	Daily	DC9	0640	0850	P3,645	P3,195

ORIGIN: TACLOBAN

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 652	Daily	DC9	0800	0910	P2,899	P2,569
	5J - 656	Daily	DC9	1400	1510		
	5J - 658	Daily	DC9	1600	1710		

ORIGIN: CLARK

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE
CEBU	5J - 589	Tu/F/Sun	DC9	1300	1420	P2,995	P2,669

ORIGIN: ZAMBOANGA

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 852	Daily	DC9	1150	1320	P3,667	P3,239	P2,699
CEBU	5J - 432	Tu/Th/Sat	DC9	0830	0925	P2,649	P2,319	P2,119
DAVAO	5J - 394	M/W/F/Sun	DC9	0830	0930	P2,649	P2,319	P2,199

ORIGIN: CAGAYAN DE ORO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 382	Daily	DC9	0715	0840	P3,645	P3,239
	5J - 384	Daily	DC9	1135	1300		
	5J - 386	Daily	DC9	1345	1510		

ORIGIN: ROXAS

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 374	Daily	DC9	0710	0810	P2,539	P2,199

ORIGIN: DUMAGUETE

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 628	Daily	DC9	1530	1640	P2,899	P2,569

ORIGIN: KALIBO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 340	Daily	DC9	1030	1120	P2,899	P2,569
	5J - 342	Daily	DC9	1120	1210		

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FROM	TO	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA
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		5J - 114	Tu/W/Sat	B757	1345	1545
		5J - 118	Daily	B757	1640	1840
HONG KONG	MANILA	5J - 111	Daily	B757	1000	1200
		5J - 115	Tu/W/Sat	B757	1710	1910
		5J - 119	Daily	B757	1940	2140
MANILA	SEOUL	5J - 194	M/F/Sun	B757	1340	1840
		5J - 1944	Th	B757	1340	1840
SEOUL	MANILA	5J - 195	M/F/Sun	B757	1950	2250
		5J - 1955	Th	B757	1950	2250

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GOV. SERING CUP

Ferreira shatters hammer throw record

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ARNEL Ferreira heaved the hammer way past the national mark even as Lerma Bulauitan leaped to just a breath away from the RP long jump record as they led all winners yesterday in the Milo National Open/Gov. Jose Sering Cup at the Rizal track oval.

Ferreira flung the hammer to 52.14 meters to erase the RP record set by Agustin Jarina in 1995 (51.98m). He also surpassed the 51.07m record he made in winning the bronze medal in the 2001 Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games.

"I was hoping to compete with a foreigner to help motivate me," said the 21-year-old Ferreira, whose personal best is 54.50m. An Air Force personnel, the 5-foot-11 Ferreira admitted he has a lot to work on if he's named to the national team to the Busan Asian Games. "I need more foreign exposure, so hopefully I can get some in the Grand Prix later this month."

Earlier, Bulauitan wowed the fans with her showdown with fellow national team member Maristela Torres.

Bulauitan used her sixth and final jump to win the gold with 6.46m. But her effort still fell short of the RP record registered by Elma Muros (6.56m), who is her discoverer-mentor.

Still, Bulauitan's mark stands a chance in international competitions since the SEAG mark is just 6.52m and the Asian Games record is 6.91m.

Other winners were Melinda Manahan of Philippine Navy in the 10K walk, Geralyn Amandoron of La Union in the women's javelin, John Lozada in the men's 800m run and Domingo Manata in the men's 400m low hurdles.

Meanwhile, Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok called on all sports leaders to attend the special tribute to Sering today at 7 p.m. at the Century Park Sheraton.

Kidd Nets' first All-NBA choice; Bryant, McGrady in

NEW YORK—New Jersey Nets guard Jason Kidd became the franchise's first All-NBA selection Wednesday, joining first-time members Kobe Bryant and Tracy McGrady.

Shaquille O'Neal and Tim Duncan tied as the top vote-getters on the All-NBA first team, chosen by 126 sports writers and broadcasters in the United States and Canada.

Kidd, a first-team selection for the fourth straight season, averaged 14.7 points, 9.9 assists and 7.3 rebounds. The Nets acquired him from Phoenix for Stephon Marbury last offseason.

The Lakers' Bryant (25.5 points, 5.5 rebounds and 5.5 assists) and the Magic's McGrady (25.6, 7.9, 5.3) were on the All-NBA second team last season.

O'Neal, Bryant's teammate on the two-time defending NBA champions, was chosen for the fourth time, while the Spurs' Duncan made the team for the fifth consecutive year.

The second team was Minnesota's Kevin Garnett, Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki, Sacramento's Chris Webber, Seattle's Gary Payton and Philadelphia's Allen Iverson.

Boston's Paul Pierce, Detroit's Ben Wallace, Philadelphia's Dikembe Mutombo, Dallas' Steve Nash and Indiana's Jermaine O'Neal were chosen for the third team. *AP*

NBA Playoffs Schedule

First Round

May 3, Friday

Indiana Pacers vs New Jersey Nets, **Game 5 at 7 a.m.**

Toronto Raptors vs Detroit Pistons, Game 5 at 8:30 a.m.

May 4, Saturday

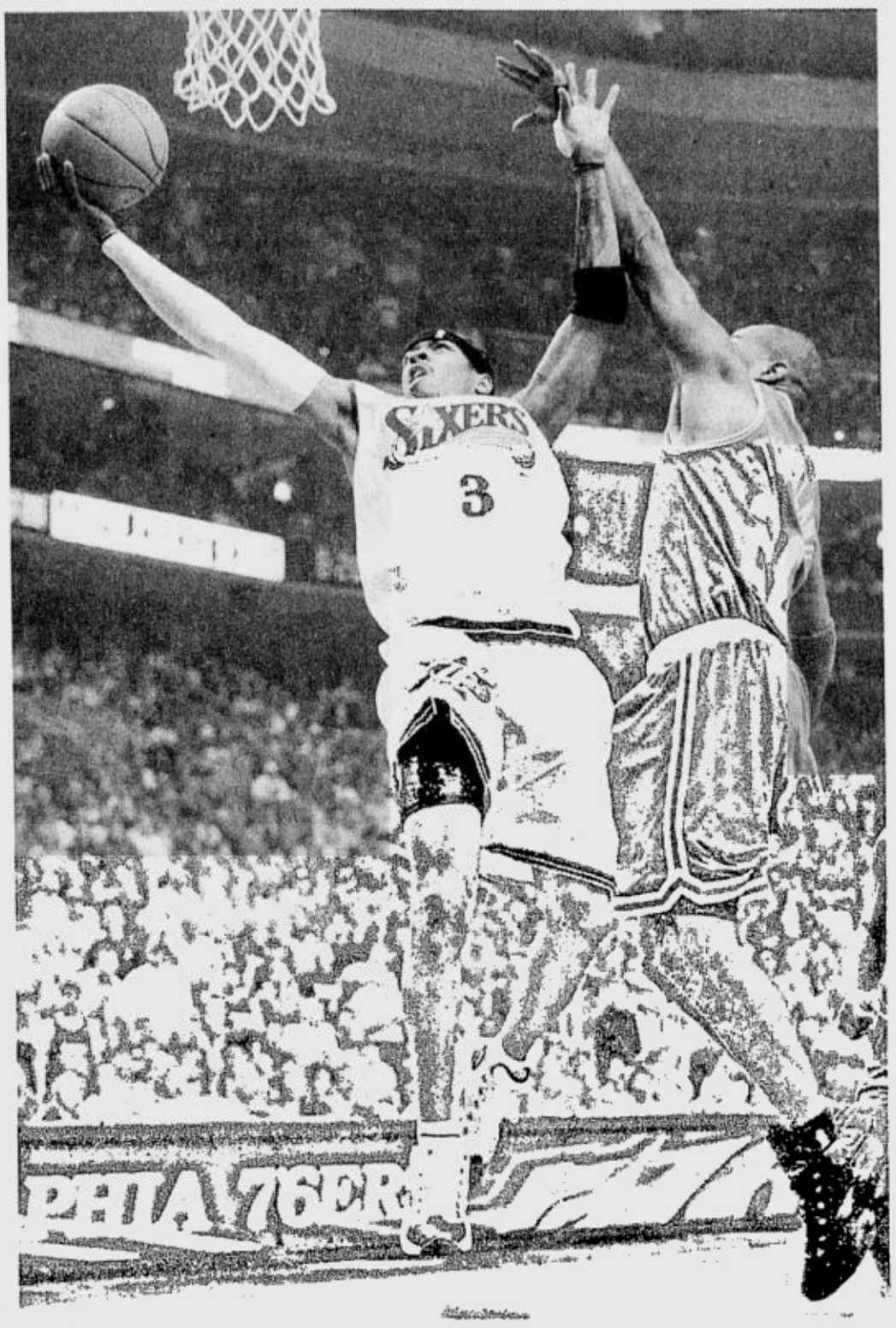
Philadelphia 76ers vs Boston Celtics, Game 5 at 8 a.m.

Seattle Supersonics vs San Antonio Spurs, Game 5 at 10:30 a.m.

Conference Semifinals

May 5, Sunday

Dallas Mavericks vs Sacramento Kings, Game 1 at 6:30 a.m.



STAYING ALIVE

Boston Cetlics' Erick Strickland (20) defends against Philadelphia 76ers' Allen Iverson (3) in the first half of their NBA playoff Game 4 in Philadelphia yesterday. The Sixers won, 83-81. Iverson scored Philadelphia's final eight points, including a go-ahead four-meter (14-foot) shot in the final 22.6 seconds. The win forged a Game 5. The defending Eastern Conference champion Sixers are trying to become just the seventh team in NBA history to win a best-of-five series after losing the first two games. Iverson finished with 28 points, Derrick Coleman added 14 and Dikembe Mutombo had 10 points and 14 rebounds. In Seattle, Gary Payton had his second career playoff triple-double with 26 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds and rookie Vladimir Radmanovic scored 23 to lead Seattle to a 91-79 victory over the San Antonio. The win tied their first-round playoff series at two games each, with Game 5 of the best-of-five series to be played tonight (Saturday in Manila) in San Antonio. *AP*

Superio reads 28,402 km

CATARMAN, Samar—The Nissan Exalta GS Superio sported 28,402 kilometers on its Caltex Havoline odometer when it was brought here by a four-man crew spearheaded by Juvy Catajoy Wednesday night in the crucial stages of the fourth Pan Philippine Marathon.

Before Catajoy turns over the keys of the eye-catching Exalta to a group led by Willie Ingles at the Nissan-Mantrade in Magallanes, he could not help but express his heartfelt thanks to those who made it possible that the 30-day event ran smoothly.

"Without the assistance provided by Goodyear's Servitek and Ventura radials, Caltex Havoline oil and Vortex fuel and service stations nationwide, we would have probably suffered several delays," said Catajoy.

Accompanied by Lester Susi, Jun Ramirez and Willy Avila, Catajoy also noted the helping hand of Asian Navigation and Tracking System and Joey's 92.3 FM.

Of course, the support thrown by Nissan officials Vir Diwa and Tonette Lee and big bosses Arthur Wang and Jack Wu, should not to be taken lightly, added Catajoy, one of countless marathoners who have fallen in love with the sedan that has a high-performance QG 1.6-liter, 116-horsepower engine.

Catajoy arrived here at 11 p.m. and is expected to take a ferry crossing to Matnog, Sorsogon, at 1 a.m. of Thursday en route to Nissan-Naga before pushing toward Manila.

Gutierrez cops 2 SVI Cup rounds

DICKIES-MP Turbo's Monching Gutierrez lived up to expectations by winning two rounds of the 2002 SVI Challenge Cup races on Sunday at the Subic International Raceway.

Gutierrez and teammate Tonton rose to the occasion by finishing 1-2 in Round 3.

Gulf Oil-zed-MP Turbo's Carlos Anton unleashed another superb wind-up by finishing second in the Petron Blaze super Saloon's 3rd round.

Running fourth with three laps remaining, Anton moved up two notches in the final two laps to snatch second from frontrunners Kookie Ramirez of Globe Petron and Mike Aguilar of Velocity Motors in the race.

Anton finished a full second (28:21.124) behind the powerful Honda of Caltex Globe's Jody Coseteng (28:20.154). Coseteng topped the rounds once again in convincing fashion.

Gulf Oil lubricants, zed, the world's leading mobile service provider, and Dickies, the sporting apparel for people on the go, are the major sponsors of the MP Turbo Team.

The team's other supporters are Abante Newspaper, Francisco Motors Corp., Yehey.com, AER Engines, Rota Wheels, CPM Mufflers and Accessories, Racegear, BLTBCo, Bavarian Machine Works and Fastrack.

Take basic precautions

COMMENTARY

By Vic Vic Villavicencio

THERE indeed are some things we tend to take for granted.

High on this list is the fact that we are a country of over 7000 tropical islands and water-related leisure activities are practically year-round.

Snow, and snow-related leisure activities, may look pretty in pictures and in the movies, but it's also a fact that many of those in the picture would, if they had a choice, rather be on some paradise of a white sand beach like what we have plenty of in the Philippines. Which is why, like migratory birds, foreign tourists are seen in greater numbers at our island resorts from November onwards.

Take sailing. Some years back, a French organizer staged for two successive years a big event called Raid Mer de Chine. This attracted catamaran sailors from many countries. The first one took off from Manila to Palawan, and the second started from Cebu, both with El Nido as race destinations. A pity that there was no third one because, as reported, the organizers had sold the rights to the event to another group.

This summer will see many local sailing events. But we suggest that it might do the sport some more good if there were more such activities organized for native sail boats from coastal communities.

Unknown to some, we do have beaches in the Philippines that attract suffers. There are organized competitions in Siargao and Catanduanes. Every now and then one might see a surfboard strapped to the roof of a car on the way to some beaches in Pangasinan or La Union.

Windsurfing is also popular. A windsurfing camp at Caliraya Lake in Laguna attests to this. The camp is active year round. We have seen them racing or simply having fun on the water even in the middle of what we consider our rainy months.

Then there is the year-round sport fishing, of course. Fresh water and fish pond fishing know no seasons. When the northeast winds are too strong and the waves do not make sport fishing advisable on the waters of the Pacific Ocean, there the fishing spots on the western side to go to. And when the southwest monsoon winds blow, many anglers seek the waters of Quezon and other points on the Pacific side.

Meanwhile, it's summer and any body of water will attract people seeking relief from uncomfortably high room temperatures. Enjoy, but take the basic precautions against such things as sunburn and muscle cramps. It may also be the right time to take swimming or scuba lessons. Or get introduced to sport fishing. (E-mail: vvv@pacific.net.ph).

RCPI, Lhuillier resume semifinal MBA berths

GAMES TODAY (RMC Gym)					
4:00 p.m.—Cagayan vs Negros			Pangasinan	4	3
6:30 p.m.—Cebu vs Davao			LBC Batangas	3	3
			Pampanga	1	7
TEAM STANDINGS			South	W	L
North	**W**	**L**	Lhuillier	5	2
Olongapo	5	2	RCPI Negros	5	2
			Davao	5	3
			Casino CDO	1	7

RCPI Negros and Cebuana Lhuillier resume their quest for semifinal slots when they tackle separate opponents today in the MBA First Conference at the RMC Gym in Davao City.

The RCPI Negros Slashers face the Casino Cagayan de Oro Amigos at 4 p.m. while the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems meet the Professional Davao Eagles at 6:30 p.m.

Coming off losses in their last games, RCPI Negros and Cebuana Lhuillier need victories today to move closer toward the two semifinal berths in the Southern Conference. They carry similar 5-win, 2-loss records.

Both teams, however, may be in for a rough ride.

Subic Centennial sets yachting mark

A MULTI-AWARDED yacht manned by an all-Filipino crew set a Philippine yachting record for the longest time duration from Subic Bay to Suva, Fiji.

The Subic Centennial, a 46-foot high multi-awarded yacht in local and Asian regional sailing, set the Philippine record for the 4,100 nautical mile voyage in a circumnavigation attempt eastward. It sailed for 28 days and 16 hours, averaging 6 knots.

The crew is composed of skipper Ernesto "Judes" T. Echauz, Ridgely M. Balladares, Rommel M. Chavez, Teodorico F. Asejo, Clarence S. Tayong, Stephen C. Tan and Edison Cagampang.

The crew passed through Subic Bay and exited through the Surigao Straits. It crossed Irian Jaya, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, St. George Channel south of the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Viti Levu Island, Fiji, before going to the capital, Suva.

The Subic Centennial also set a minor record from Subic Bay to the exit point of the Philippines at the south easternmost island, Bukas Grande, south of Siargao Island (542 nautical miles) by navigating the distance in 3 days and 2 hours, averaging 7.35 knots.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1995, Alexander Viñas won six games to rule the April edition of the Bato Balani Executive Active Chess series at the Active Chess Center of Asia in Makati City. Also today in 1997, Cheryll Macasera beat her two opponents to bag the 16-and-14-under titles in the 1997 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop in Sorsogon.

Garma grabs solo lead; Torre stalled

Standings after nine rounds:

Men's: Garma 6.5 points; Paragua, Gomez, 6; Torre, Mariano, Villamayor 5.5; Sanchez, Antonio 5; Nadera 4.5; Ranola, Bancod, Sumngat 3.5; Barbosa 3; Milagrosa 2.5; Merelos 2.

Standings after eight rounds:

Women's: Mendoza 6.5; Lomibao 6; Joya 5.5; Castellano 5; Cua, Mariano 4.5; Cstro, Cruz 4; Abanes, Espallardo 3; Rivera, Torres, Dela Cruz, Toleda 2.5.

ON A day of changing fortunes, it was International Master Chito Garma who emerged solo leader after getting the full point from NM Alex Milagrosa in the ninth round of the Grand Finals of the National Chess Championship at the 17th floor (Penthouse) of the All Asia Capital Center in Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

Garma, who beat Milagrosa in 34 moves of a French Defense game, was one of only three winners in men's hostiliities in the ninth round as Grandmasters Eugene Torre and Joey Antonio failed to make any headway and settled for fighting draws.

Torre, who blitzed into a three-game winning streak after a shaky start, capped by a masterful 41-move victory over IM Mark Paragua in the eighth round, had no recourse but to agree to a draw with NM Yves Ranola after 70 moves of an English match.

Antonio's game with NM Joseph Sanchez also ended into 52-move draw after a Scotch game.

The draw moved Torre one notch higher in a tie for 4th to 6th places with fellow GM Bong Villamayor and IM Nelson Mariano, Antonio has five points in a three-way tie with Sanchez and IM Barlo Nadera.

Villamayor and Nadera were the other two winners in the ninth round, with Villamayor repulsing NM Petronio in 52 moves of a Slav and Nadera outsteadying Melvin Merelos after 52 of a Nimzo-Indian as the tournament organized by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines and hosted by Lex Development Corp. approaches its last seven rounds.

Ivanchuk eliminates Kasparov

PRAGUE, Czech Republic —In a major upset, top-rated Garry Kasparov of Russia was eliminated Wednesday by Vassily Ivanchuk of Ukraine in the quarterfinals of the Eurotel World Chess Trophy Tournament in Prague.

Ivanchuk is seeded eighth and is the ninth-rated player in the world.

They drew both rapid games and blitz games before Ivanchuk won the sudden-death game.

After drawing the first game, Kasparov was in deep trouble for much of the second. Observing grandmasters were divided as to whether he could hold the draw, which he did. The two blitz playoff games were uneventful draws. They then went to a sudden-death game.

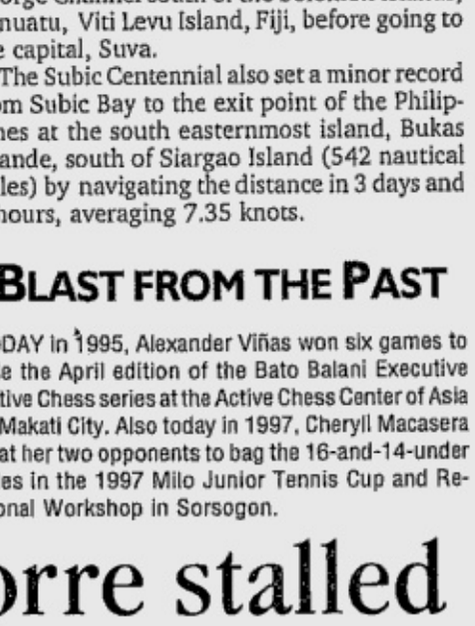
The players were moving so quickly that the computer system that relays the moves to the spectators froze after 10 moves. Ivanchuk won the game but the moves were not available.

The event has attracted 32 of the world's top players who are competing for a purse of 500,000 euros ($450,000). The only top player absent from the event is FIDE world champion Ruslan Ponomariov of Ukraine, who is currently ranked sixth in the world.

Ponomariov defeated Ivanchuk in the finals of the FIDE championship in January.

The tournament is organized as a series of two game knockout rapid matches with blitz playoffs if necessary. The finals will be played at standard time controls. It is a cliche that chess has become a young person's sport but 50-year-old former world champion Anatoly Karpov of Russia put that in dispute by eliminating his 24-year-old countryman Alexander Morozevich.

In the previous round, Karpov defeated the second-seed, Einstein world champion Vladimir Kramnik, also of Russia.



NAGA-BOUND

Christian Canlas of the Ateneo grade school placed second recently in the boys 14-under in the Juntaphil Cup in Baguio City. He will participate in the Palarong Pambansa in Naga City May 17-27.

Why are sports leaders like that?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

PHILIPPINE sports is not making any headway because our sports leaders, including officials of the Philippine Sports Commission, are always fighting. One example is the embattled administration of PSC chair Eric Buhain.

This early, PSC officials are already locked in bitter conflict. Buhain, just two months and a half on the job, commissioners William Ramirez and Leon Montemayor as well as former commissioners Richie Garcia and Monico Puentevella, who is now a congressman and chair of the House committee on youth and sports, have banded together, seeking the ouster of lone woman commissioner Cynthia Carrion, former aerobics president and college classmate of President Macapagal-Arroyo. Buhain and Co wanted Carrion out on charges ranging from influence peddling to malversation which the lady commissioner strongly denied, branding her accusers as "liars" and challenging all of them to resign.

Needless to say, the conflict only proved once more that nothing much is expected to change as long as those who are in charge of developing sports in the country are the same officials who have little to show in the way of progress except for the fact that they quarrel a lot. We spend millions for sports development yet most of our sports leaders are self-centered and proficient only in finger-pointing. They are lacking in delicadeza, strong personal discipline and enthusiasm for sports. They should change their attitude otherwise the country's quest for future sporting glory will amount to nothing but one big joke, albeit a humorless one.

* * *

GOV. SERING CUP. On the Gov. Jose C. Sering Memorial Cup which ends tomorrow, athletics president Go Teng Kok has this to say: "This meet is a fitting tribute to the late Governor Sering. As founding father of the Asian Amateur Athletics Association in 1973, he has left large footprints not only in athletics but also to sports in Asia." . . . It's odd but multi-awarded weightlifter Jaime Sebastian is recognized as president of weightlifting by the international body for the sport, but not by the POC which recognizes Rep. Monico Puentevella. This is a mess. To appease Sebastian, Buhain appointed him as a PSC consultant, thinking Sebastian would stop attacking Puentevella. But it turned out Sebastian cannot be told what to do because when asked to stop attacking Puentevella, Sebastian refused, saying he would continue his tirade against the solon. Buhain is reportedly afraid of Congressman Puentevella who chairs the House committee on youth and sports. For his courageous stand, Sebastian was praised by former POC president Julian Malonso who said, "I admire Sebastian. He is a good Muslim like Sultan Kudarat."

CYCLING RENAISSANCE

Lina reiterates P300-M package

BERT Lina, chair of Airfreight 2100, reiterated yesterday his company's bold move to toss in P300 million for a five-year plan to revive the lost glory in cycling.

Lina, whose company is the sole FedEx licensee in the Philippines, said the highlight is a strong cycling finish for the country in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games in Manila.

"Like I said, the plan is not merely aimed at reviving the annual Tour, but injecting life into the sport itself," said Lina, a cycling buff.

FedEx has already gained attention with its intention to revive the Tour through the FedEx Express Tour, but Lina wanted to make it clear tha the general objective is to develop the sport in general.

"When we agreed to revive the Tour, it was with the notion that giving life back to everybody's favorite cycling spectacle will run parallel with developing cyclists who can make an impact internationally like, for instance, the Tour de Langkawi or the Tour de France," Lina said.

LINA

"The Tour is the perfect grassroots program for cycling. The event will give us the opportunity to comb the countryside and look for potential talents. That is why we are aiming to make the Tour the nest from which national cyclists will grow from," said FedEx Express Tour organizer Lito Alvarez, president of AirFreight 2100.

The FedEx Express Tour kicks off with the four-day Calabarzon race, which will be held May 30, 31, June 1 and June 2.

Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain lauded the ambitious program.

"The people of FedEx have made life easier for us as far as searching for financially sound organizations to adopt certain sports is concerned. It is no secret that the PSC needs all the help it can get in providing financial assistance for the development of our national athletes," said Buhain.

Liná and Alvarez are currently busy preparing for the FedEx Express Tour's kickoff leg, which has generated a lot of excitement within and outside the cycling community.

Sabandon stuns Arcilla, 6-3, 6-3

SUBIC Bay Freeport—La Salle's Pop Sabandon scored a major reversal Wednesday night when he ousted top seed Johnny Arcilla to reach the quarterfinals of the first Coca-Cola National Tennis Championships at the International Tennis Center here.

Playing in his best form, the 14th-ranked Sabandon beat Arcilla, 6-3, 6-3, to stay in the hunt for the P20,000 top prize.

"I didn't expect to win because I was playing the No. 1 seed. But I did my best and won the match," said the 21-year-old Sabandon, who defeated Arcilla in the semifinals of the 2000 Milo Open in Cebu.

Sabandon's victory sent him up against the unranked Terrence Estrope of Davao City's Marsman Drysdale, who pulled off a 6-3, 6-2 upset win over No. 10 Antonio Sagansay.

Second seed Adelo Abadia, No. 3 Joseph Victorino and fourth pick Michael Mora III registered contrasting victories to earn quarterfinal berths in this Group A event presented by Coca-Cola Bottler Phils. Inc. and supported by Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority chair Felicito Payumo.

Ho enters quarters

BOYS' 12-under fifth seed Joshua Tan Ho of Xavier School played true to form, beating ninth seed Juan Carlo Pantua, 6-1, 6-4, yesterday to enter the quarterfinals of the first Enervon International Junior Tennis Challenge at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Ho will face fourth-ranked Mark Balce, who survived Ernesto Pantua, 7-5, 7-5.

Top seed Gerard Bergavera defeated No. 13 Jose Opulcencia, 6-2, 6-0, to advance against No. 8 Francis Alcantara, a 6-1, 6-1 winner over No. 12 Paulo Perez while No. 2 Gerard Ngo outplayed No. 14 Raymarc Santiago, 6-2, 6-0, to advance against No. 7 Gerardo Narvaez who rallied past No. 11 Edwin Olivarez, 6-4, 2-6, 6-0.

Olympian Chan nets archery gold

SYDNEY Olympic veteran Jennifer Chan shot 1255 points yesterday to bag the gold medal in the single Fita Olympic round of the ongoing national archery target championships at the UP-PSC range in Diliman, Quezon City.

Chan beat newcomer Rachelle Anne Cabral (1254) and Adelinda Figueroa (1223) in the event which serves as part of the qualifying competition for the Busan Asian Games.

Chan and Cabral surpassed the 1250 criteria for the women's single Fita round set by the POC-PSC Task Force.

Cabral tallied 320, 313 and 335 points, respectively, in the 60-, 50- and 30-meter distances, while Chan, who also carded 335 in the 30 meters, produced the best output of 301 in the 70 meters.

Marvin Cordero is ahead in the men's division with 598 points, followed by Arnold Roxas (594) and Christian Cubilla (570).

SPORTSWATCH

Ejap sportsfest set

THE ECONOMIC Journalists Association of the Philippines, the country's largest organization of business editors and reporters, will hold its second annual sports festival on May 11 at the United Laboratories gym in Mandaluyong City. More than 100 Ejap members belonging to leading newspapers and wire agencies are expected to attend the sportsfest. There will be four teams participating in the day-long activity—the defending champion Trade and Industry team, Banking and Finance team, Stock Market team and Energy-Telecoms-Agriculture team. Events on tap are track and field, swimming, volleyball, basketball, and fun games such as sack race and tug-of-war.

Youth chessfest

THE NATIONAL Chess Federation of the Philippines will stage the National Youth Chess Championship May 18-23 at the Centermall, Greenhills Shopping Center in San Juan. The categories are 10-under, 12-under, 14-under, 16-under, 18-under and 20-under. The top winners will represent the country in future international tournaments. Call 435-1113/1114 for other details. Registration is now ongoing at the NCFP office, 4th floor, Tempus II Bldg., Matalino Street, Quezon City at the back of QC Hall.

Serito bags 2 titles

CAGAYAN DE ORO—Irene Serito of the host Nazareth Tennis Club bagged 2 titles following victories over Noela Pacana 6-2, 6-3 in the girls' 16-under and Jaylene Tan 6-4, 6-2 in the junior women's 21-under at the close of Adidas Tennis Challenge 2002 here. Serito shared the limelight with fellow Oro Junior Tennis teammate Honeymae Gilles in the unisex 10-under; Arlene Marave of Iligan in the girls' 12-under; Anna Salomon of Butuan in the girls' 14-under; Juke Alban of Surigao City in the boys' 12-under; Juv Alban in the boys' 14-under and Andy Autentico in the junior men's 21-under category. Gilles edged Paolo Fermin 6-3, 7-5; Marave whipped Massey Batdampar, 7-5, 6-3; Salomon retired an injured Anthea Murfet 5-2; Juke outlasted Noelito Oacana 4-6, 6-3, 7-5; Juv tripped Duma Boloto, 6-4, 6-1; and Autentico mastered Ricardo Solon, 6-3, 6-2. On hand to award the glass trophies in the Adidas netfest organized by CTW and supported by Milo and Sports Kids with sanction from Philta were Adidas executive Goody Custodio and club president Sammy Cheng.

Nestlé

BEAR BRAND Kitefest 2002

FLIGHT UPDATES

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1st Prize	Jomary Golena	Fish 3
2nd Prize	Bryan Andrade	Bulkan 2
3rd Prize	Eugene Perez	American Bald Eagle
HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION - FLAT KITE CATEGORY		
1st Prize	Argie Payumo	Sunflower Kite
2nd Prize	Leo Roselo	Flower
3rd Prize	Rexes Villorente	Ibon Adarna
COLLEGE DIVISION - GEOMETRIC KITE CATEGORY		
1st Prize	Richard Dumos	Parachute
2nd Prize	Edgardo Ticar	Diamond of Fire
3rd Prize	Loule Sta. Maria	Nestlé Coffeemate Box
ADULTS DIVISION - GEOMETRIC KITE CATEGORY		
1st Prize	Bernard Carpio	Pagoda Kite
2nd Prize	Raffy Balinas	Pyramid of Square
3rd Prize	Rodrigo Esmeña	Luzviminda Kite
COLLEGE DIVISION - FIGURE KITE CATEGORY		
1st Prize	Romel Dela Cruz	Butter Bike
2nd Prize	Ulderico Nam-ay, Jr.	Treasure Shark
3rd Prize	Frederick Balinas	Sea Lion
ADULTS DIVISION - FIGURE KITE CATEGORY		
1st Prize	Cris Rosales	Gargollas
2nd Prize	Patrick Payumo	Clown
3rd Prize	Hercules Salvador	King Fisher
SARANGGOLA NI BEAR BRAND		
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SPORTS

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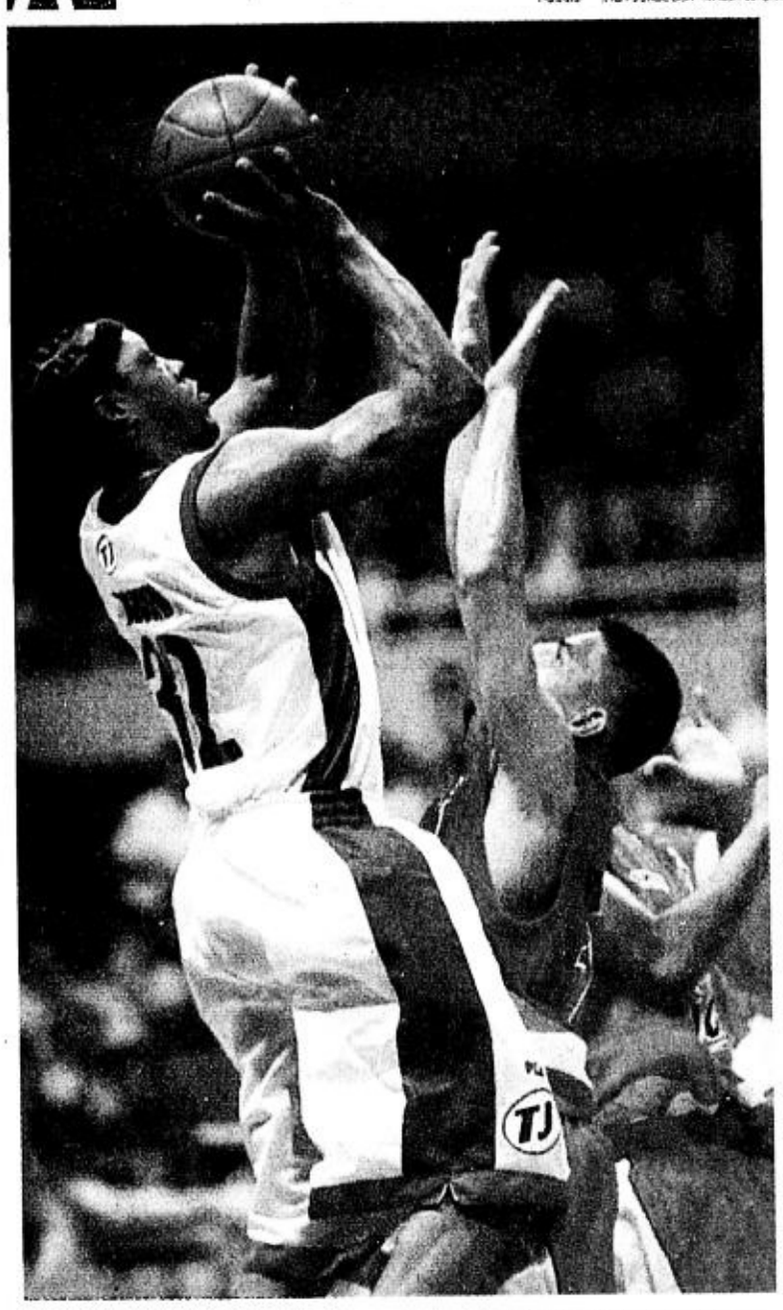


PUREFOODS' Derick Brown attempting against Coca-Cola's Cris Bolado in this file photo. ROMY HOMILLADA

PBA GOVERNORS CUP

Alaska levels series with SMB

By June Navarro

ALASKA rode on the heroics of Ron Riley and James Head to post a thrilling 67-63 overtime win last night over San Miguel Beer and level their semifinal clash to 1-1 in the PBA Samsung Governors Cup at the Philsports Arena.

The high-flying Riley scored six points, including four straight freethrows, and Head added four in the extra period as the Aces reduced the series to a best-of-three affair.

The Aces had the chance to grab the win in regulation but Bryan Gahol's open three-point jumper went long that extended the low-scoring ballgame into overtime.

Head came up with a double-double performance, finishing with 20 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Aces, who deflected a San Miguel three-point binge in the final period.

Boybits Victoria uncorked two triples while Dwight Lago and Robert Duat had a trey each as the Beermen threatened to take the game away from the Aces, 57-52, in the last two minutes.

But Head, Jojo Lastimosa and Gahol sank their charities as the Aces pulled even with still 26 ticks remaining.

That comeback mirrored the energy displayed by the Aces in the first half when they broke loose from an expected down-the-wire finish.

The Aces put up an aggressive offensive stance at the start of the second period, enabling them to pull away, 27-17, from a tight and turnover-laden first quarter.

At about the same time, the Aces held the Beermen scoreless for five minutes while sending Mario Bennett to early foul trouble with three personal fouls.

The Beermen could have led by three points at the end of the first half had Dorian Pena, Nic Belasco and Lamont Strothers made eight out of their 10 attempts from the stripe.

Instead, the Aces capitalized on those miscues, allowing them to take a 31-25 halftime cushion.

In the other semifinal thriller, Purefoods repeated over Coca-Cola, 84-75, to zoom ahead to a 2-0 lead and move a victory away from a championship stint.

Meanwhile, Talk N Text yesterday shipped Gherome Ejercito to Sta. Lucia Realty for playmaker Donbel Belano in a bid to shore up the backcourt of the Phone Pals.

"We needed to improve the pointguard position and we feel that Belano fits the bill. He possesses the quickness and has a good outside touch. Belano is somebody who could flourish in our system," Talk N Text coach Bill Bayno told the INQUIRER.

Ejercito, whose playing time with the Phone Pals got gobbled up by Kenny Evans and Gilbert Demape this conference, will team up with starter Paolo Mendoza, Gerard Francisco and Chris Tan in manning the backcourt for the Realtors.

SCORES

ALASKA 67—Head 20, Riley 19, Lastimosa 12, Gahol 6, Santos 5, Walkvist 4, Arigo 1, Allado 0.

SAN MIGUEL 63—Bennett 15, Belasco 12, Victoria 11, Strothers 10, Duat 9, Peña 3, Lago 3, Mente 0.

Quarters: 13-17, 31-25, 42-36, 67-63

Ateneo seeks to protect PBL leadership

STANDINGS	W	L
Ateneo	5	1
ICTSI-La Salle	6	2
Kutitap	5	2
Ana Freezers	4	3
John-O	4	4
Shark	3	4
Blu	2	4
Montaña	1	6
RP Team	0	4

GAMES TODAY
(Makati Coliseum)
1:45 p.m.—RP-Burlington vs Montaña
4 p.m.—Kutitap vs Ana Freezers
6 p.m.—Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation vs Blu Sun Power

By Dennis U. Eroa

WITH SLOTMAN Enrico Villanueva a doubtful starter and Paolo Bugia out for the season with a knee injury, Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation faces an acid test as it aims to maintain the solo leadership against Blu Sun Power tonight in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

The 6-foot-5 Villanueva, who scored 21 points on top of nine rebounds and three assists as Ateneo beat Blu in the first round, 58-48, is recovering from a sprain while Bugia will not be able to play after tearing his anterior cruciate ligament against John-O on Monday.

Ateneo mentor Joel Banal, however, expressed confidence his wards will survive the test.

"We've come up with adjustments and I just hope that our gameplan will work. Val Domingo and Rich Alvarez have to do dual roles to maintain our strength off the boards," said Banal.

The Ateneo-Blu tussle is set at 6 p.m.

Montaña faces RP-Burlington in the 1:45 p.m. opener while Ana Freezers meet Kutitap Toothpaste at 4.

Ateneo is gunning for its sixth win in seven outings, while Blu is trying to improve its 2-4 card.

Celino Cruz, Magnum Membrere, Wesley Gonzales and Larry Fonacier will provide firepower for the Eagles.

Aries Dimaunahan, Marlon Legaspi, Rey Mendez, Eric de la Cuesta, Jacques Gottenbos and Lou Gatumbato will head Blu's attack. Tris Codamon and University of the Philippines standout Abby Santos are doubtful starters due to injuries.

Ana (4-3) is favored to repeat its 79-73 victory over Kutitap Toothpaste last April 15. Team owner-coach Rudy Mendoza will again rely on Cebuano James Laygo, Dondon Mendoza, Roland Pascual, Paul Artadi and Ronald Tubid to boost its semifinal bid.

"We have to maintain our momentum. At this point, we're not yet sure of making it to the next round, so the coming games are very important for us," said Mendoza.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: LPGA Longs Drugs Challenge, First Round at 1 p.m. on ESPN, Second Round at 5 p.m. on Star Sports

PGA Greater Greensboro Chrysler Classic Highlights at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Inside the PGA Tour at 11 a.m. on Star Sports

PGA Compaq Classic of New Orleans, First Round at 10 p.m. on Star Sports

SOCCER: English Premier Football League at 7 a.m. and 12 noon (r) on Star Sports

2002 FIFA World Cup at 9 p.m. on Star Sports

Football Asia at 9:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

BILLIARDS: 2001 BCA Open 9-Ball Championship, Finals at 7 p.m. (r) on ESPN

HORSE RACING: Racehorse Digest at 1 p.m. (r) on ESPN

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

■ Bare Eye: Wait until Rene Saguisag reads this /A26

■ Pinky sues developers /A26

AMADOR

Rape raps vs WPP guard

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) recommended the filing of rape and attempted rape charges against the Witness Protection Program security officer accused of raping a female witness.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco yesterday said the bureau recommended to the Department of Justice on April 29 that Gerry V. Lintan, 30, alias Rustom Yap, be charged with abusing a 29-year-old government witness on March 28 and with trying to rape her again two days later.

Wycoco said his men were waiting for the arrest warrant to arrest the suspect, who had been suspended by the DOJ and transferred to the Cordillera region.

Lintan denied the charges in his counter-affidavit, saying he had an illicit affair with the woman. Lintan said he is willing to undergo a polygraph test as he dared his accuser to do the same.

However, Wycoco said his men found enough evidence supporting the woman's allegations against Lintan.

PO1 Lorelie D. Pacho, another WPP intelligence security officer, corroborated the woman's allegations, Wycoco said.

The NBI director said the victim's daughter was the bureau's primary witness. The child saw the suspect in his second attempt to abuse the mother, according to Wycoco.

RAPE RAPS/A26

Undercover cop faces dismissal

By Philip Tubeza and TJ Burgonio

SPO1 JOCELYN Cariño is in deep trouble.

The police intelligence officer was not only injured when protesters caught him in plainclothes and armed with a pistol during the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan Labor Day rally in Mendiola early Wednesday night. He also faces dismissal from the service for bringing along his gun and then losing it when the demonstrators collared him.

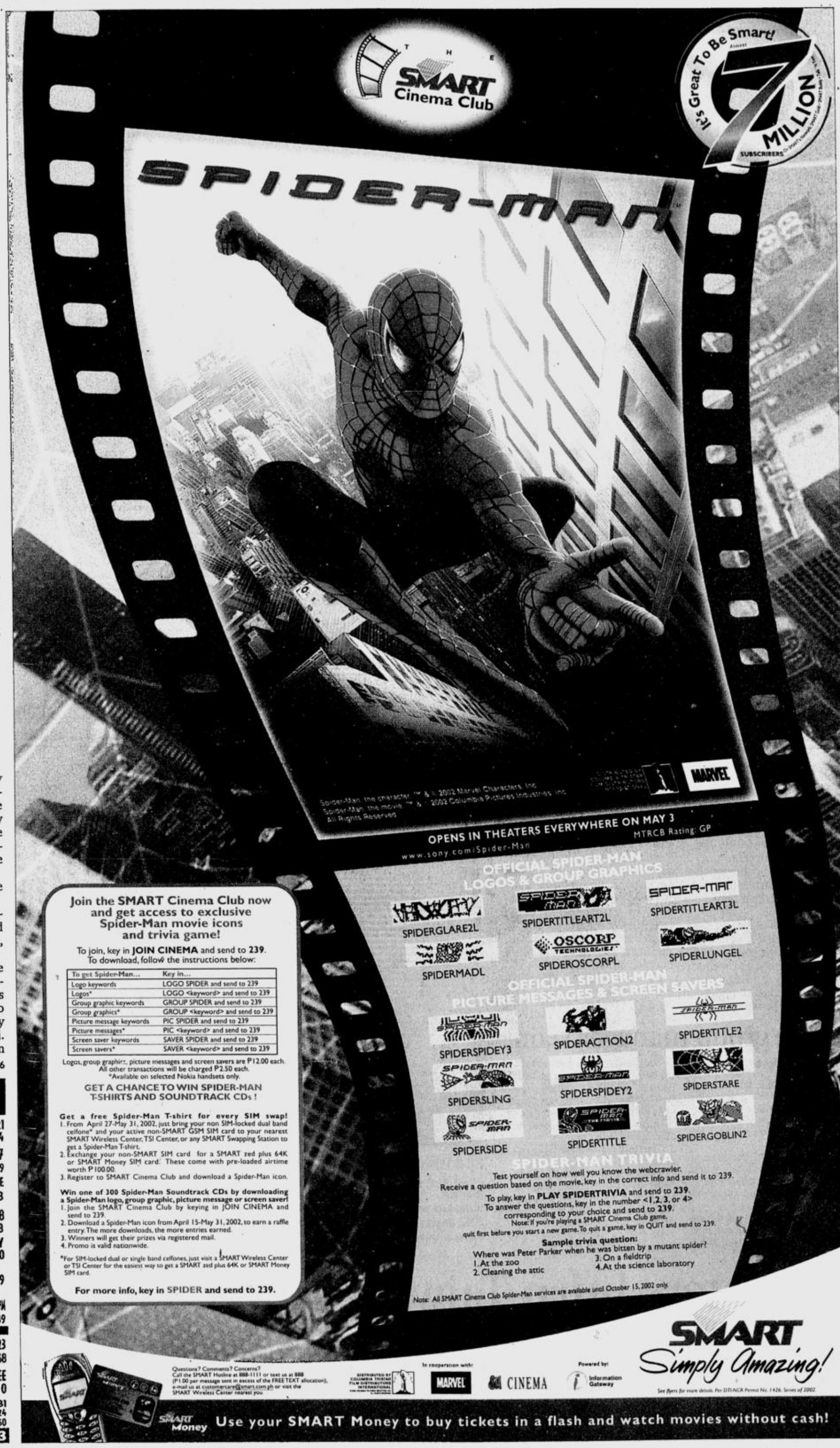
Bayan leaders said they do not know where Cariño's gun is.

The undercover policeman will be investigated before administrative charges are filed against him, said Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina, Philippine National Police spokesperson.

Cariño, 30, of Laguna and a member of the National Capital Region Police Office's Regional Investigation Intelligence Division, is facing a penalty ranging from suspension to outright dismissal from service if found guilty of irregular performance of duty, Espina said.

"His fault was that he brought a firearm

UNDERCOVER /A26



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Cowboy Center	J BROTHERS	NO ENTRANCE FEE
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Cowboy Center	STREETLIFE	THE DAWN MAY 28
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Cowboy Center	POWER ON	THE DAWN MAY 23
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KAMPO	GROOVE	APR. 28 DEGREE
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What Drives You CALTEX

Wait until Rene Saguisag reads this

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

MANY crimes, like the Nida Blanca murder, have remained unsolved because they were simply impossible to solve.

Maybe professional crooks have studied and perfected their commission.

Or our dumb investigators just don't know any better?

Just grin and bear it, you can't win them all, sighed Eddie Nelly, my friend and neighbor who all these years has been helping work for the betterment of our community in riverside Mandaluyong.

This was last weekend, an evening, under a lamppost.

Yesterday, Mang Eddie was a totally changed fellow. He puffed hard at his newly lit menthol cigarette and let out a curse:

"*Pero paano,* what about that boy who continued to be cheated by his employer? P2000 a month *na nga lang, hindi pa masuwelduhan.*"

Mang Eddie was livid. It was sickening, he swore.

***

He happened to have read that sob story about the poor motor shop worker who continues to be kicked around by his employer in Cainta.

Deomides Sibulan, 30, who was promised a P2,000 monthly pay by Elpidio la Torre, owner of the PDY Motors, said his former boss owed him a total of P8,000 for four months of unpaid compensation.

For the information of authorities, the shop being run by that slave driver is located on Marlo Drive, Montevista Park, Cainta Rizal.

Anyway, Sibulan sounded utterly desperate on the phone when he aired his complaint.

The shop had its regular line of clients. But Sibulan said he was forced to leave it last October after his employer refused to pay him for two successive months.

The owner claimed he was losing money.

***

Last January, Sibulan said he met his old boss who pleaded with him to return to his job.

The poor sucker fell for the sob story.

He rejoined the shop with the hope that he would finally get paid.

He indeed got an initial sum in his first month back, but his employer again failed to give him his due for two straight months.

That brought the total balance to P8,000, or four months of unpaid labor.

The poor fellow finally sensed he was going nowhere. He decided to quit for good.

He has since joined the Manalang Motors in Angono where he's regularly paid the old rate of P2,000 a month.

***

Anyway, the poor *promdi* said he was ready to forget and forgive.

Until his mother wrote him from Ginlaon, Sorsogon to beg for help.

The old lady, with failing sight, needed an immediate eye operation.

Sibulan wanted to run to his mother's side, but he didn't even have money for a simple jeepney ride.

So he excused himself and ran to his old workplace instead.

He confronted his old employer and demanded the unpaid four months' salary.

He was routinely driven away.

In another bold bid at collecting, Sibulan alleged that the eldest son of his former boss manhandled him.

He said he nearly lost his life after his head banged on the concrete floor upon being punched.

The badly shaken boy said he was lucky to have survived without any crippling injury.

***

Do you know a lawyer who can help me? asked Sibulan the first time he called.

He said he got my number from a fellow worker, a bricklayer who once fixed our bathroom and kitchen.

He was told he should first try bringing his case to barangay officials in Cainta.

He did. He was however warned he could instead end up being sued.

But after his story was published in the INQUIRER, it seemed the barangay chair finally arranged a confrontation between the parties.

You know what? Now Sibulan's former employer has made a screaming denial. He claimed the poor worker was not entitled even to a cent's pay.

Because all he was allegedly promised was board and lodging, not the P2,000 monthly pay.

The exploited guy has made a crying denial: "*Usapan daw po namin, pakain lamang ako, hinding, hindi po naman totoo.Hinding hindi po!*"

Deomides Sibulan has been sued in the barangay for making false claims.

Maybe a lawyer can help him.

'Miss Saigon' actress sues developers

By Leah Salterio

MOVIE, television and stage actress Pinky Amador filed a case of coercion against the developers of a Makati City condominium building where she owns a unit.

Named respondents in the case were Astrid Melody Co Lim, Nelia Yoro and Amelita Bautista, officers of Ray Burton Development Corp., developers of Elizabeth Place on H.V. de la Costa Street in Salcedo Village, Makati.

In her complaint, Amador said the developer cut off her electricity, water and telephone last April 19 to compel her to pay to them directly the monthly amortization on the unit, instead of depositing it in an escrow or trust account.

Amador said that in July 2001 she entered into a contract with Ray Burton Development Corp. for the purchase on installment basis of a unit at Elizabeth Place. She said the sale was covered by condominium certificate of title No. 44937.

She said she started paying amortization in August 2001 and moved into the unit last February. But in March 2002, she read in a newspaper a "Notice to Elizabeth Place Buyers," published by China Banking Corp., stating that "the 441 condominium titles and mother title of the Elizabeth Place are (the) subject of pending cases."

Upon the advice of her lawyer, Amador wrote a letter dated April 4 to Ray Burton Development Corp. president Astrid Melody Co Lim advising her that she would deposit her payment of the monthly amortization of P122,000 in a trust account until the issues between the developer and the bank were resolved and her title was delivered to her, Amador said.

On April 4, she opened a trust account with Bankwise for Ray Burton or China Banking and deposited in the account her amortization for April, Amador said.

But she received a letter on April 15 from Lim, rejecting the trust account and demanding payment of her April amortization directly to Ray Burton, Amador said.

She said she received another letter from her developer on April 17, this time signed by its chief accountant, Nelia Yoro, ordering her to vacate her unit due to "my continued non-payment."

The following day, she received a copy of the condominium certificate of title No. 75217 in the name of China Banking canceling her certificate of title 44937 corresponding to her Unit 22H at Elizabeth Place, Amador said. She said the utilities in the condominium were cut off.

Amador said she was forced to sleep in the house of friends and relatives a night at a time in different parts of Metro Manila.

Amador complained she could not even continue with her professional duties as an actress and a member of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB).

"I am frustrated to realize my life long dream of owning a house has turned into a nightmare," she said. "Elizabeth Place was supposed to be my haven of peace, my sanctuary away from the klieg lights and grind of daily life. . . But as things now stand, it has become my own war zone and calvary."

Ecstasy dealers fall

By Alcuin Papa

AFTER a three-week surveillance on alleged pushers of the designer drug Ecstasy, police arrested two suspects in Makati City.

Police said they found on Lyn Nyre Ramos, alias "Neth," 23, of Pasig City, and Michael Bautista, 25, of Parañaque, 35 Ecstasy pills, according to a report by Supt. Mariano Fegarido, chief of the Drug Enforcement Unit of the Southern Police District.

The report said police watched Ramos and Bautista after receiving information that they were dealing in Ecstasy.

Police arrested Ramos at about 4 p.m. on April 29, in front of Waltermart at the corner of Don Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) and Pasay Road, and found on him 10 tablets of Ecstasy supposedly worth P12,000.

Ramos told police Bautista supplied her the drugs, which were usually sold to rich clients.

Bautista was arrested the following day in front of a fast-food restaurant on Pasay Road. He was on board a red Toyota Corolla (GDM-864), police said. They said 25 Ecstasy pills worth about P30,000 were found on Bautista.

Ramos and Bautista are detained at the SPD jail.

Investigators said they were trying to find out from the suspects who supplied them with the drugs.

On April 19, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) bagged what could be the biggest single haul of Ecstasy pills with the arrest of a Chinese during a buy-bust at SM Manila.

About 600 Ecstasy pills worth P720,000 were found on Ying Li Jia, 24.

Dance group manager slain

By Nelson F. Flores

THE BODY of a man who was said to be the manager of a group called the Sex Bomb Dancers was found dead early yesterday with a gunshot wound in the face in a golf course in Taytay, Rizal.

Police identified the man as Carlos Santos, 40, of Valenzuela City. Santos was identified through a driver's license found in his wallet.

Investigators said the body was already starting to decompose, indicating that Santos was shot either Monday or Tuesday.

They said a security guard found the body, which was covered with a blanket, about 5 a.m. inside a mustard yellow Mitsubishi Adventure van (WJT 459) in the parking lot of the Cruz Con compound inside the Manila East Golf Club.

The body was in the driver's seat, police said.

SPO3 Redentor de Padua, Taytay police station desk officer, said policemen led by SPO3 Delfin Tanjueco were still conducting a thorough investigation.

De Padua said the body was brought to Camp Crame for autopsy.

PHOTOGRAPHERS' FAVORITE ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

As far as the press photographers are concerned, Joyce May Dionzon, 19, a business management student, is one of the standouts among the 24 candidates in the Miss Philippines 2002 beauty pageant. The candidates were presented at the poolside of the Hotel Intercontinental Manila.

Undercover . . .

From page A25

with him during the rally," Espina said, noting that this was a violation of Metro Manila police chief Deputy Director Edgardo Aglipay's order to policemen not to carry their service firearms during rallies.

Security marshals of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) subdued Cari¤o at about 6:30 p.m. Wednesday near the Don Chino Roces bridge when they noticed a bulge in his waistline. It turned out that he was carrying a .45-caliber pistol.

Cariño yesterday claimed that he lost his gun, cash and personal belongings during the scuffle with the protesters.

Cariño said he would file charges of robbery and physical injuries against Bayan secretary general Teddy Casiño and Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran if his gun and belongings were not returned.

Cariño wants his lost .45-caliber pistol, his P2,500 Seiko wristwatch, P3,000 Rayban sunglasses, P3,000 Maruma camera, P5,700 in cash, his police ID and driver's license.

Cariño said he will not press charges if his belongings are returned, adding that what happened to him "was part of the job."

But he said that while the militants wanted to help him, they do not know where his missing belongings are.

"Let him file the case," Casiño said. "The problem is we don't know where his belongings are. We focused on protecting him first (from the angry protesters) when we caught him."

Casiño added that Bayan is also thinking of filing an administrative case against Cariño for the incident.

In an interview, Cariño admitted he blundered when he carried his gun with him. But he was quick to add that he simply forgot to leave his gun behind, as per police rules, when he mingled with the protesters.

Cariño said he had just arrived from San Pedro, Laguna when he and his team leader, Supt. Rene L. Castro, went to the rally to "take a picture" of the demonstrators.

He said they were both in civilian clothes.

He claimed they were five meters away from protesters when the marshals collared him "without any provocation." He said Castro managed to escape.

"I was left alone and I introduced myself as a police officer and begged them not to harm me, but they ignored me," Cariño said.

He said he was handcuffed and then beaten up. He showed a medical report indicating he suffered abrasions and contusions in the head, elbow, wrist and nose.

Protesters burn Taiwanese flag

"WE will continue our fight to save local industries and our jobs."

Thus declared the labor sector yesterday even as they call on the government to defend local industries and local jobs against unfair trade.

About 200 workers from the Philippine Cement Workers' Council (PCWC), the National Confederation of Labor (NCL), the Alliance of Progressive Labor (APL), and the Association of Democratic Labor Organization (Adlo) on Tuesday burned the Taiwanese flag during a protest rally in front of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (Teco) in Makati City.

The protesters, who were urging the government to defend local industries and local jobs against unfair trade, lashed out at the Taiwanese government and Teco officials for causing the death of many local industries and the displacement of thousands of workers and farmers.

PROTESTERS cheer as the flag goes up in smoke.

According to Adlo president Calrito Rallistan, Philippine products, from onions to cement, were being blocked in the Taiwan market while that country was dumping uncontrollably in the local market, resulting in loss of jobs.

PCWC said the country's biggest cement importer, the Taiwan Cemeny Corp. (TCC), began dumping excess cement in the Philippines in 1999 through its subsidiary, TCC Cement.

PCWC secretary general Samuel Eslava said: "Because it is dumping cement here, TCC has unfairly displaced domestic cement and eaten up its market share."

"The intent is clear," said Eslava. "The Taiwanese want to control our market while they are closing theirs to us. This is patently unfair and we want Taiwan to know that we will fight it to the end."

Rallistan decried the government's failure to implement laws against TCC, saying that the only thing clear is that "TCC remains influential not only in Taiwan but in the Philippines as well."

The labor groups warned that if this scenario continued, more local industries would die and more workers would be displaced.

Rape raps . . .

From page A25

NBI Special Action chief and assistant regional director Vicente de Guzman said that according to the complainant, the alleged rape happened in the afternoon of March 26 in a WPP safe house in Cubao, Quezon City.

The woman was about to wash her daughter's feeding bottle when Lintan approached her and then punched her in the stomach, the woman alleged. Lintan dragged her to his room, she said.

The woman said she cried for help but the loud sound of the suspect's VCD player drowned out her cries.

Lintan threatened to kill her and then he covered her mouth with a pillow, undressed her, and then raped her, she said.

She said that two days later, she had just come out of the shower when she saw the suspect waiting for her with his sex organ already exposed. He tried to rape her again but she was able to grab a knife and threaten him with it, she said.

He backed off but her child saw what happened, the woman said.

Two days later, the complainant told PO1 Pacho about her ordeal. She also complained to WPP officials.

But she said she was forced to leave the WPP on April 2 after WPP chief Leo Dacera failed to act on her complaint.

Lintan denied he raped her, saying they were having an affair. He claimed that she might have "felt bad" because he did not fulfill his promise "to abandon his legal wife and live with her" once she got out of WPP coverage.

The woman was scheduled to leave the program on April 2.

"I'm willing to submit myself to a polygraph exam," Lintan said in his counter-affidavit. "She should also do the same."

Wycoco said the NBI would also investigate other allegations of wrongdoing inside the WPP.

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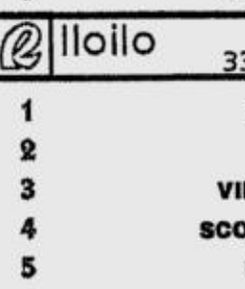

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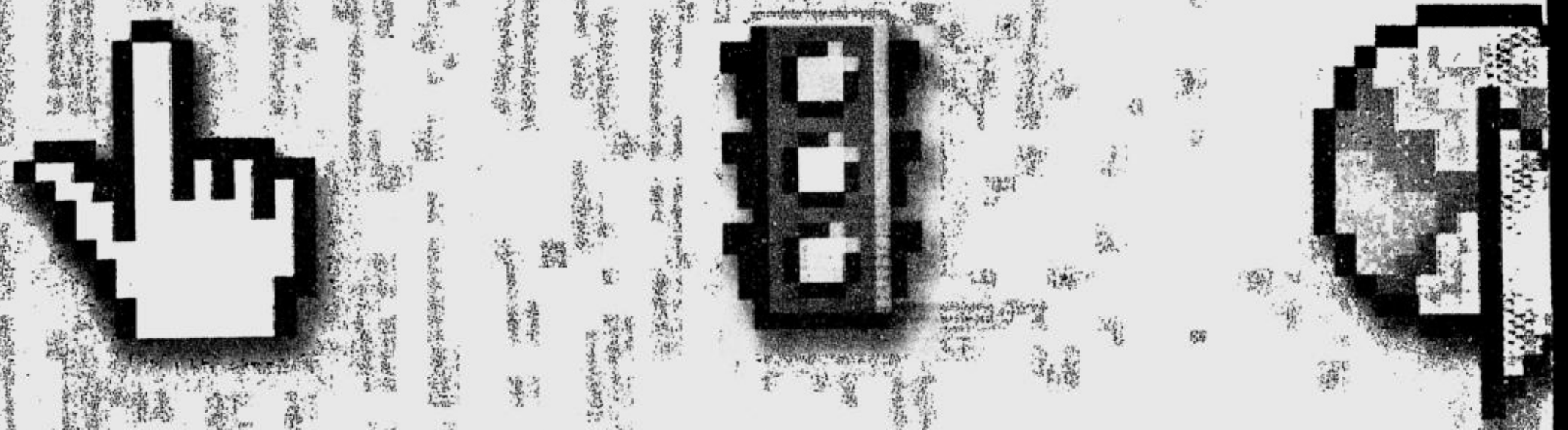

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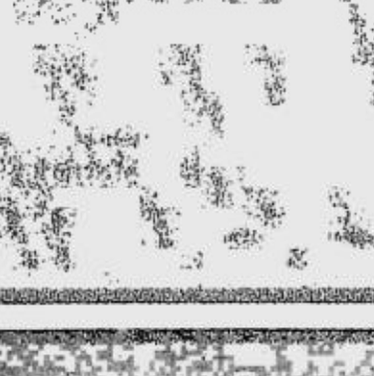
1. Create a PLDT Vibe dialer by double clicking "My Computer" on your PC Desktop. Then double click the "Dial-up Networking" folder.
2. Double-click "Make New Connection".
3. Type "PLDT Vibe" on space provided. Select the right modem you are using and click "Next".
4. Leave the area type in 10300 Number field. Philippines as or region code "Next", then



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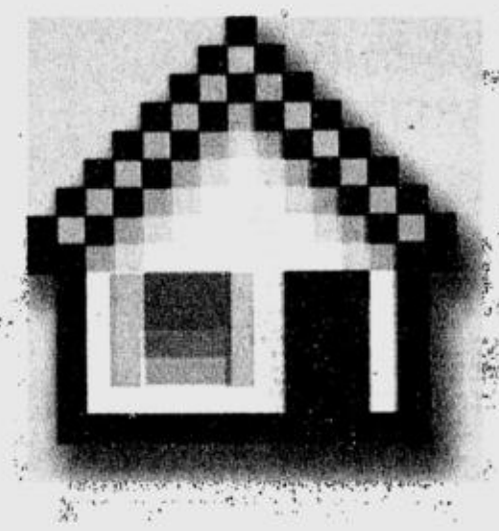
PLDT

www.pldtvibe.com



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ode blank. Telephone and select he country Then click "Finish".

5. Go back to the Dial-up Networking folder and right click on PLDT Vibe Dialer and select "Properties". Uncheck the "Use Area Code and Dialing Properties" check box.

6. Select the "Server Types" tab. Make sure that the "Type of Dial-up Server" uses PPP and that the only items that are checked are "Enable Software Compression" and "TCP/IP". Click "OK".

7. Right click on the PLDT Vibe dialer again and select "Create Shortcut". When asked, click "Yes" to create the shortcut on your Desktop.

8. To start surfing, double-click on the "shortcut to PLDT Vibe" dialer icon on your Desktop. Then enter "pldt" on the username field and "vibe" on the password field on the dialer then click on the "connect" button.

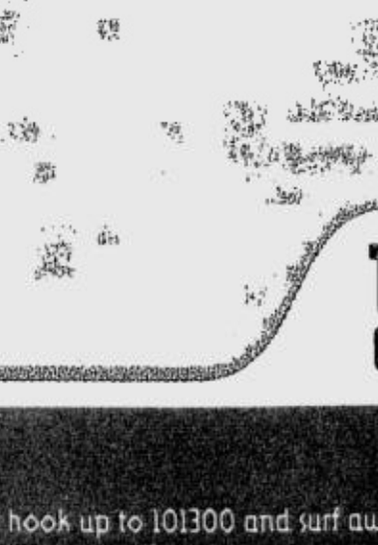
9. As soon as you are connected to PLDT Vibe, just click on your browser (i.e. Internet Explorer, Netscape Navigator) to start surfing.

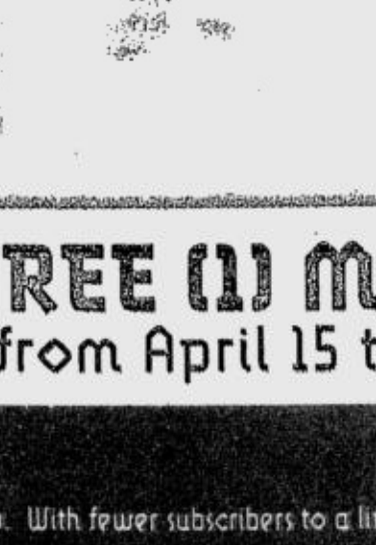
To access PLDT Vibe, all you need are:

- PC OR LAPTOP
- Modem (56K modem is recommended)
- Postpaid PLDT residential phone

For more information, call 171 (for Metro Manila, Visayas and Mindanao), or 1-800-1-888-9090 (for North and South Luzon).

*PLDT Vibe e-mail addresses available on May 16, 2002





How to bear the heat . . .

From page A32

milky note removes the "sting" from the ginger scent, and makes it skin-friendlier.

Ginger Milk cologne is excellent when layered over the matching spray lotion. It's a cooling scent that's supposed to have some healing and positively energizing qualities.

If you've noticed, the range of present-day personal care products like shampoos, soaps, lotions, and colognes is really going back to "natural," practically kitchen-based ingredients. There's nothing like making full use of the most natural remedies to enhance and enrich the essence of everyday life.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	VIDEOKE KING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	S2PID LUV
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	SPIDERMAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SCORPION KING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SPIDERMAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	RETUR TO NEVERLAND
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	ROLLERBALL
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	BUKANG BIBIG
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	TIKIM / GIRLS
ODEON	VIDEOKE KING
ODEON-2	SCORPION KING
ROBEN	BUKANG BIBIG
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	BEHIND ENEMY LINES / SUPREME SUNCTIONS

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	BUKANG BIBIG
REMAR	VIDEOKE KING
REMAR-2	BUKANG BIBIG

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	VIDEOKE KING
B	BUKANG BIBIG
C	SCORPION KING

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	I AM SAM
CINEMA-2	SPIDERMAN

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	IKA-7 GLORYA
CINEMA-2	VIDEOKE KING
CINEMA-3	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BUKANG BIBIG
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	E.T.
CINEMA-6	VIDEOKE KING
CINEMA-7	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
CINEMA-8	S2PID LUV
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	ROLLERBALL
CINEMA-12	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
CINEMA-14	I AM SAM
CINEMA-15	VIDEOKE KING

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	SNOW DOGS
CINEMA-2	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-3	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
CINEMA-4	HELP I'M A FISH
CINEMA-5	SHOWTIME
CINEMA-6	I AM SAM

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

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SPIDERMAN - GP 12:40, 3:20, 6:00, 8:40	RETURN TO NEVERLAND - GP 12:20, 2:10, 4:00, 5:50, 7:40, 9:30	SPIDERMAN - GP 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00,10:40

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SCREENING SCHEDULES

GLORIETTA 4 cinema 1 - 12:20 pm, 2:50 , 5:20, 7:50, 10:20 LMF
GLORIETTA 4 cinema 3 (THX/Guaranteed Seat) - 1:10 pm, 3:40, 6:10, 8:40, 11:10 LMF
GLORIETTA 4 cinema 6 - 11:30 am , 2:00 pm , 4:30 , 7:00, 9:30, 12:00mn LMF

GLORIETTA 1 (formerly QUAD) cinema 2 - 12:30 pm , 3:00 , 5:30 , 8:00 , 10:30 LMF
GLORIETTA 1 (formerly QUAD) cinema 4 - 11:40 am , 2:10 pm , 4:40 , 7:10 , 9:40 LMF

GREENBELT cinema 2 - 12:12 pm , 2:30 pm , 5:00 , 7:30 , 10:00 LMF
GREENBELT cinema 3 - 11:10 am , 1:40 pm , 4:10 , 6:40 , 9:10 LMF

ALABANG TOWN CENTER cinema (THX)1 - 12:30pm , 3:00 , 5:30, 8:00 , 10:30LMF
ALABANG TOWN CENTER cinema 2 - 12:00nn , 2:30pm , 5:00 , 7:30 , 10:00 LMF
ALABANG TOWN CENTER cinema 3 - 11:30am , 2:00 pm , 4:30 , 7:00 , 9:30 LMF

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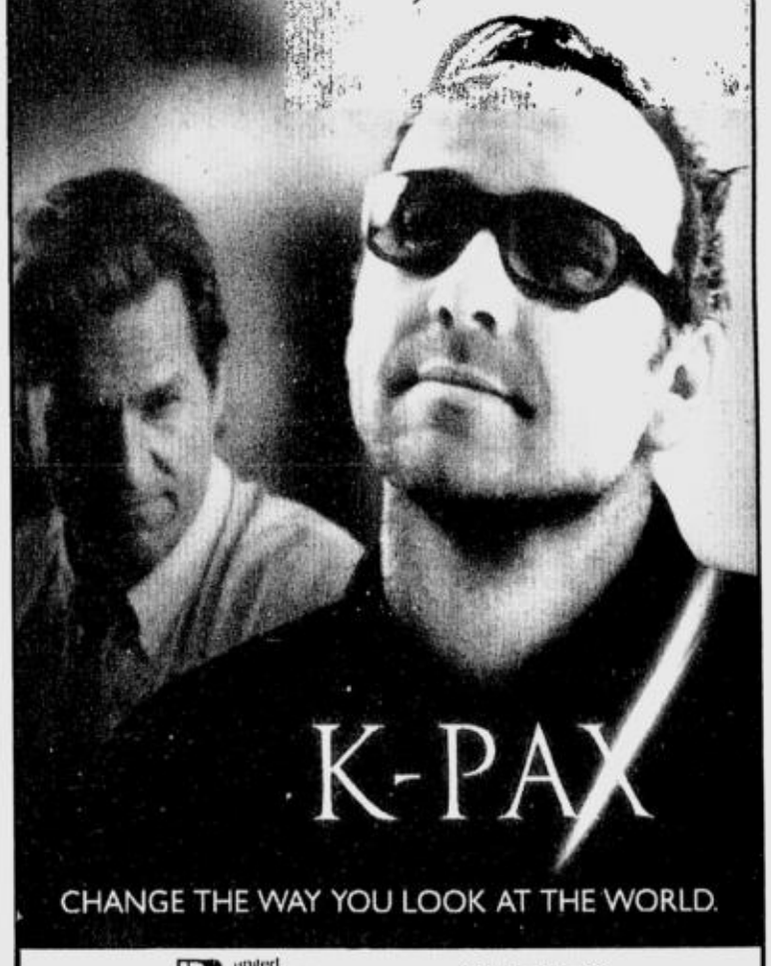

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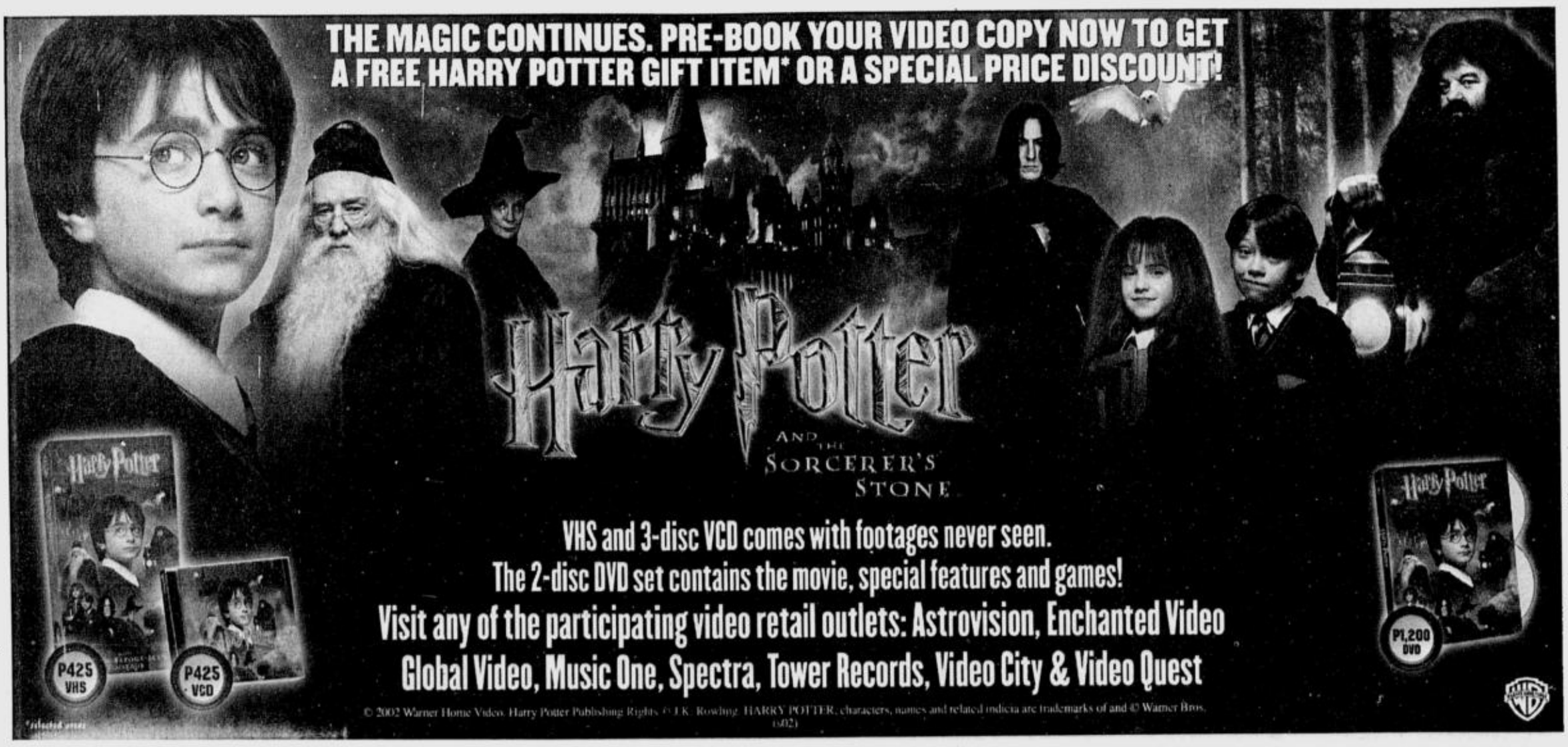

Martin: I will not give up my career for Katrina

EVEN after the annulment of his marriage to **Pops Fernandez, Martin Nievera** is not ready to get hitched again—not now, not even in the near future. And even if he has been vocal about his relationship with **Katrina Ojeda**, Martin insists he is not ready to give up his steadily rising career just to be with her.

"It's likely that Katrina will call me up one day, tell me to pack-up my things and be with her for good," Martin says. "But I don't see that happening. I cannot give up one for the other. This is my job and I have to sing. Get me onstage now, otherwise I'm going to die like a fish out of water."

Martin is happiest when he's performing onstage so it is not surprising that his calendar is loaded with singing engagements here and abroad. His desire to stay on top and maintain his stardom in the local music scene apparently outweighs even his personal plans.

"You cannot be number two in the Philippines," Martin reasons out. "You have to be number one. I'm not saying I'm number one, but I have to inspire people. I'm trying to stay on top and everyone takes a backseat to that.

"There's never a downhill in an artist's life. It's always a climb. Trying to be a good boyfriend, ex-husband, father and concert king

all at the same time is probably the hardest job."

Martin is raring to perform again. After doing a successful concert series in the United States and Canada, he is back to do more shows in the country. He returns to Onstage in Greenbelt with another concert series, "Opening Night."

As if his record-breaking 30-night stint last year was not enough, Martin is now booked for 10 more nights.

"In this new series, I decided to modify what I have already done last year," Martin says. "I'll try to sing the songs that the audience likes to hear. I am so flattered that people still come and watch me. It's like I became a habit for them, although I don't really know why they spend their money to see what Martin does."

A production of Big Mouth International for Maxi-Media, "Opening Night" runs on May 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25 and 31, with three more shows in June. Musical director is **Louie Ocampo**.

NIEVERA. Happiest when he's onstage.

Martin's repertoire for his new concert series includes a **Brian McKnight** medley, a new Broadway 2002 medley, a tribute to great musicals, songs by Seals and Crofts and a Latin medley of hits by **Enrique Iglesias, Marc Anthony** and **Carlos Santana**.

"There will be no more **Ricky Martin** numbers this time," Martin assures.

He will also render for the first time the song he recorded with Brian McKnight, "Thank You for Saving My Life," which will be included in the former's soon-to-be-released 20th anniversary CD under MCA Universal Records. The album will contain other songs penned by noted singer-songwriters such as **David Pomeranz** and **Kenny Loggins**.

McKnight was tapped to write other songs for Martin, including the heart-wrenching "I'm Sorry" and the beautiful ballad, "Forever Starts Right Now."

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FRANKIE Pangilinan

Sharon daughter in new commercial

FRANKIE Cuneta Pangilinan, daughter of megastar Sharon Cuneta and Sen. Francis Pangilinan, is the bright and bubbly new baby featured in the latest print and television advertising of Hi-Nulac.

Vibrant, full of energy and only 16 months old, Frankie is said to be fond of swimming, knows how to choose her own shoes and clothes, sings and dances, "blesses" her elders, and makes baby talk with other people.

The new commercial is now showing on primetime television.

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3 I AM SAM
4 SCORPION KING
G4 (GLORIETTA 4)
1 RETURN TO NEVERLAND
2 SHOWTIME
3 SCORPION KING 12:30 pm/ 2:30/ 4:30/ 6:30/ 8:30/ 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS
4 ROLLER BALL
5 HELP! I'M A FISH
6 I AM SAM
7 SNOW DOGS
GB1 (GREENBELT 1)
1 BEFORE NIGHT FALLS
2 SCORPION KING
3 I AM SAM
4 Onstage MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE May 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 31 & June 1
ATC (ALABANG TOWN CENTER)
1 SCORPION KING
2 I AM SAM
3 RETURN TO NEVERLAND
4 VIDEOKE KING
5 ROLLER BALL
THIS WEEK'S EVENTS
The Ayala Malls Events
MAKATI
Look who's hanging around Ayala Malls
SPIDERMAN LIVE!
MAKATI
ALABANG
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Town Plaza
CEBU
Live Action Show and Meet & Greet Schedules
May 10 & 11 - 3:30pm, 5:30pm & 7:00pm
Activity Center
May 12 - 11:30am, 3:00pm & 6:00pm
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

How to bear the heat and still smell sweet

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

THERE'S nothing like a clean, fresh scent to truly highlight or improve my mood. I've discovered a few that are light enough for the unbearable heat that we're now experiencing.

Acca Kappa Muschio Bianco, available at Rustan's Esseneses. I'd read that this was supposedly a favorite scent of the late **John F. Kennedy Jr**. Well, if it was good enough for the scion of the legendary "Camelot" family and People magazine's "Sexiest Man Alive", then it was worth giving it a try.

If you're like me, there are moments when you don't want a frilly, overly feminine scent. These are the times when you want to assert your independence, or when you're engaging in something athletic. There was a time that Clinique's Happy for Men and **Issey Miyake**'s male scent were my favorites.

Acca Kappa is a unisex scent that smells shower-fresh, almost like a baby powdery scent mixed with the grassy freshness of the outdoors, but with a healthy dose of masculinity. The bottle is similar in shape to the Ralph Lauren squarish "Romance" bottle. The scent is made in Italy, and it's surprisingly moderately priced at P795 for a 100-ml bottle.

L'Occitane Vanille eau de toilette, available at Rustan's Makati. I love this scent because it's candy-like, youthful and sweet without being cloying. Whenever I spritz **Josh** with vanilla after his bath, I can't kiss him enough!

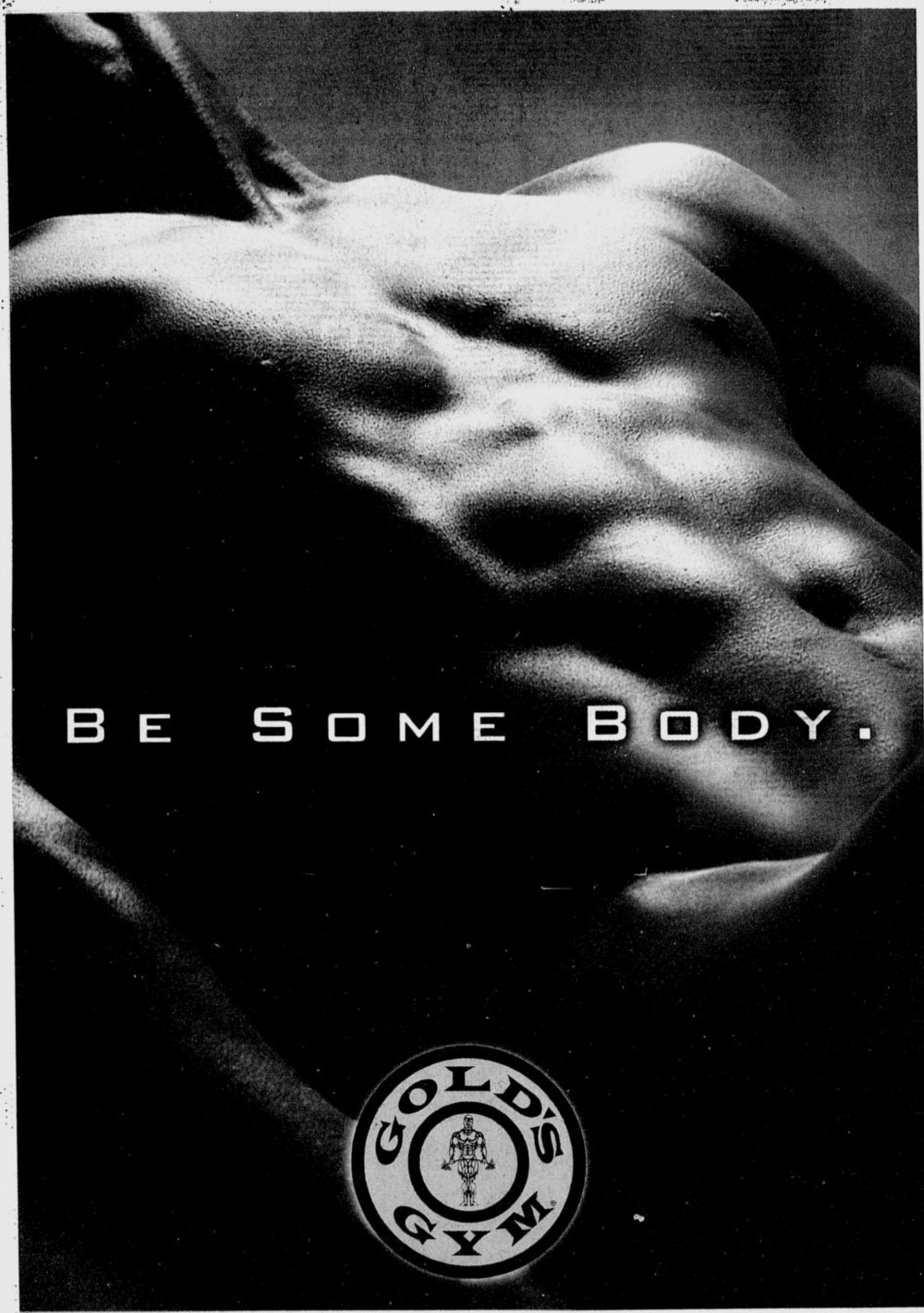
There was a time when I was addicted to Bath and Body Works' raspberry and juniper scents. But when the heat rises, somehow fruity scents aren't quite as refreshing, maybe because I mistakenly believe that when I perspire, the scent has a tendency to seem "sour" on my skin.

My friend **Tatus** told me he read that vanilla is one of the most comforting scents, and that the scent for most men and women evokes very happy memories.

My cousin **Rina** told me to try out Occitane since it has a complete vanilla line. The bath and shower gel and the eau de toilette smell even better than Victoria's Secret! Whenever I'm feeling especially stressed out and I start my day with a shower using the vanilla shower gel and spritz myself throughout the day, whether it's just psychological or truly sensory, I feel that my spirits are lifted.

The Thymes Ginger Milk cologne, available at Regenere in Shangri-La Plaza. I buy almost all my scented Zen and Nirvana candles at this store. I was there several weeks ago and I was introduced to this new fragrance. I've always liked the smell of ginger, maybe because I used to drink *salabat* on a regular basis and it really helped soothe my overworked throat and the scent would always jumpstart my enthusiasm to tackle the job on hand. Origins actually has a very good line of ginger-based soap, body oil, body souffle and eau de toilette. But Thymes Ginger milk is milder and a bit more refreshing because the addition of a

HOW/ A30



Better career prospects for married stars

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LOCAL show biz fans used to be neurotically demanding, insisting that the stars they idolized remained single—or, if they really had to get married, they should get hitched only to their screen sweethearts, or to other luminaries who had the fans' "approval."

If stars bucked this rule, they faced bleak career prospects, as their fans "punished" them by idolizing new stars, in the hope that they would be easier to manipulate in this regard.

There were a few early exceptions to this desultory rule. **Fernando Poe Jr.** retained his popularity even after he had married **Susan Roces**—because his fans were mostly male, anyway, and didn't really care all that much about his marital status, one way or the other.

Also, when **Nora Aunor** married **Christopher de Leon**, her fans remained loyal to her, because the Nora-Boyet union was a match made in show biz heaven—or so the fans thought, until reality intruded and ended the marriage after only a few years.

Most of the time, stars who got "incorrectly" married had to expect a diminution in their fan base, which was why quite a number of show biz luminaries kept their spouses and children under wraps or out of sight. Many of the stars' spouses felt they had to agree to the ruse, for fears of reducing their stellar partners' earnings in subsequent show biz seasons.

Happily, those onerous conditions no longer hold sway over show business today. When **Aga Muhlach** and **Charlene Gonzales** got married, Aga's movie offers didn't dry up. Ditto for **Cesar Montano** when he took **Sunshine Cruz** for his bride in glittering rites.

This is a welcome sign that local show biz fans are finally growing up, and now realize that they don't "own" the stars they idolize, and that they can't keep using them as pluperfect springboards for their neurotic fantasies.

In time, we trust that the fans grow up even more and decide to stop treating show biz people as "public property." It's fine to admire luminaries for their beauty, but what happens when that pulchritude fades? Does the star lose her value? If she's a good actor, by no means!

The local show biz fan shall have attained complete maturity when he realizes that the only thing that show biz luminaries owe him is a good performance—nothing less, nothing more.

Feedback

FROM **Anthony Castelo**, Chairman of the Dakilang Lahi Foundation:

"We wish to inform the public that our 'Bangkang Papel' CD is not a 'gimmick,' and neither is it intended as a 'propaganda' album for the administration, as stated in some media outlets.

"The title cut, 'Ako, ang Bangkang Paoel at si Ate Glo,' is an inspirational song and was written mainly for the benefit of children, to encourage them to pursue their ambitions, in spite of harsh realities like poverty and society's other ills. The song is also a call for national unity . . ."

New sound and voices

THE BIG Mix Kool 106 is back on the FM radio band with a new sound and new DJ voices. The station's new mix includes good music, cool artists, events, on-air, "interactivities" and promos.

Kool's popular all-day request special every Sunday is complemented by "Kool Hitlist" (12 noon to 1 p.m., then 6-7 p.m.), a countdown of hit songs tabulated by Kool's tally central.

Other programs listeners shouldn't miss include "Kool NRG" (6-9 a.m.) with its power pop hits; Top 40s favorites at 9 a.m.; relaxing music from noon to 3 p.m.; high-octane hits in the late afternoons; and a greetings and request show from 9 p.m. to 12 midnight.

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BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Peso seen strengthening to 50 to $1

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PESO is likely to appreciate to 50 to the dollar with continued dollar inflows and on news that US fund Calpers was reconsidering a previously announced pullout from local stocks, a Bangko Sentral official said yesterday.

The Bangko Sentral also said yesterday that it was willing to raise as much as $750 million from the five-year bond market, up from an initial size of $550 million, if the appetite of Asian and European investors would make the cost of the borrowing cheaper.

"We will raise no less than $500 million (in bonds) and if the price is right, we would go for as much as $750 million to pay the expensive borrowings in previous years," said BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

Buenaventura said the central bank might pay debts of about $750 million that would mature in 2004. He said the BSP borrowings maturing in 2003 were less expensive so these would be paid later.

"We will do the bond issue before the end of the second quarter. We have received proposals from just about every major player," he noted.

Asked if the peso may touch 50 to the dollar, Bangko Sentral Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said: "It is a possibility."

"As to when it will happen, I cannot say."

Tetangco said the central bank was not in the market yesterday.

"The sentiment is bullish because of positive developments. The market is affected by the decision of Calpers to (reconsider pulling out) investments and the relatively peaceful May 1 rally," he said.

The peso hit a high of 50.325 to the dollar in morning trade from its previous close of 50.54. It opened at 50.50 to $1.

Among the investment banks that have submitted a proposal to the Bangko Sentral on the bond float were JP Morgan Chase, Morgan Stanley, Standard Chartered Bank, HSBC, Deutsche Bank, Credit Suisse First Boston, and Salomon Smith Barney.

Buenaventura said the BSP would likely offer the bonds to Asians and Europeans only. He said including US investors in the registration would lead to more expensive fees.

The BSP chief said the policy-making Monetary Board had instructed a bond committee led by Tetangco to start discussing the planned borrowing with the banks.

He said the central bank would like to take advantage of relative low prices given expectations that interest rates may start going up toward the second half of the year.

In San Francisco, California, a Calpers spokesperson said that the fund's staff would urge the giant US pension fund to reverse a February decision to pull roughly $15 million in stock holdings out of the Philippines but has not changed its mind about an investment ban on three other Southeast Asian nations.

Brad Pacheco, a spokesperson for the California Public Employees' Retirement System, said the decision came after a review of the Philippines showed the country meets the Calpers requirement that it settle stock exchange transactions within three days of the trade date.

PESO/ B3

Australia expected to allow entry of RP pineapples

By Christine A. Gaylican

PHILIPPINE fresh pineapples will finally be allowed to enter Australia by July this year, the Department of Agriculture disclosed yesterday.

The risk analysis being conducted on Philippine pineapples is expected to be finished next month and the country can start shipping at least 50 metric tons of the fresh produce to Australia the following month, Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor said in an interview.

The Australian government has assured the Philippines that its ongoing quarantine tests would meet the June deadline, or two years after it started its study and evaluation of the local variety of fresh pineapples.

However, Montemayor said the results of Australia's evaluation of Philippine bananas would take longer. He said the risk analysis on local varieties of bananas was not expected until October.

"What the Australian team has told the department is that by June, they could finish the final report and risk analysis on Philippine pineapples, but on bananas, they said what they could furnish us at that time is a draft analysis report," Montemayor added.

Australian banana growers had claimed that the Philippine banana variety bore several plant diseases that could be harmful to their crops.

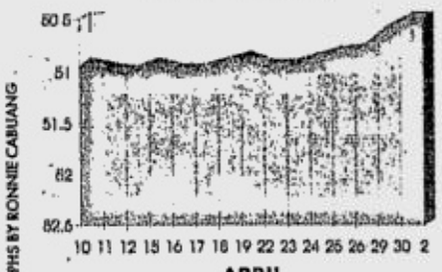
"But what we are saying is that Japan and the Middle East, which have stricter quarantine procedures, allow Philippine exports of these fruits," Montemayor said.

The agriculture department said that if Australia has no enough scientific basis for banning Philippine bananas to their country, a case would be filed with the World Trade Organization.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱50.20 = $1
As of 5 p.m., May 2, 2002

¥127.16 = $1
As of 5 p.m., May 2, 2002

GOLD: $307.60/ 308.10
per ounce Hong Kong, May 2, 2002

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares rise 1.3%

SHARE prices rose 1.3 percent yesterday as investors picked up bargains, cheered by the peaceful outcome of protests outside Malacañang, analysts said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 17.23 points to close at 1,363.32 after being closed for the previous day due to the May Day public holiday.

"The peaceful Labor Day demonstrations was good news. The market was sold down before yesterday because of peace and order concerns, but nothing violent happened, so the market reaction was very positive," said Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities Inc.

SHARES/ B2

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* compared to Windows 98 SE (source: Microsoft Press Release, dated Mar 20, 2001)
** compared to Windows 2000 (source: Microsoft Press Release, dated Mar 20, 2001)

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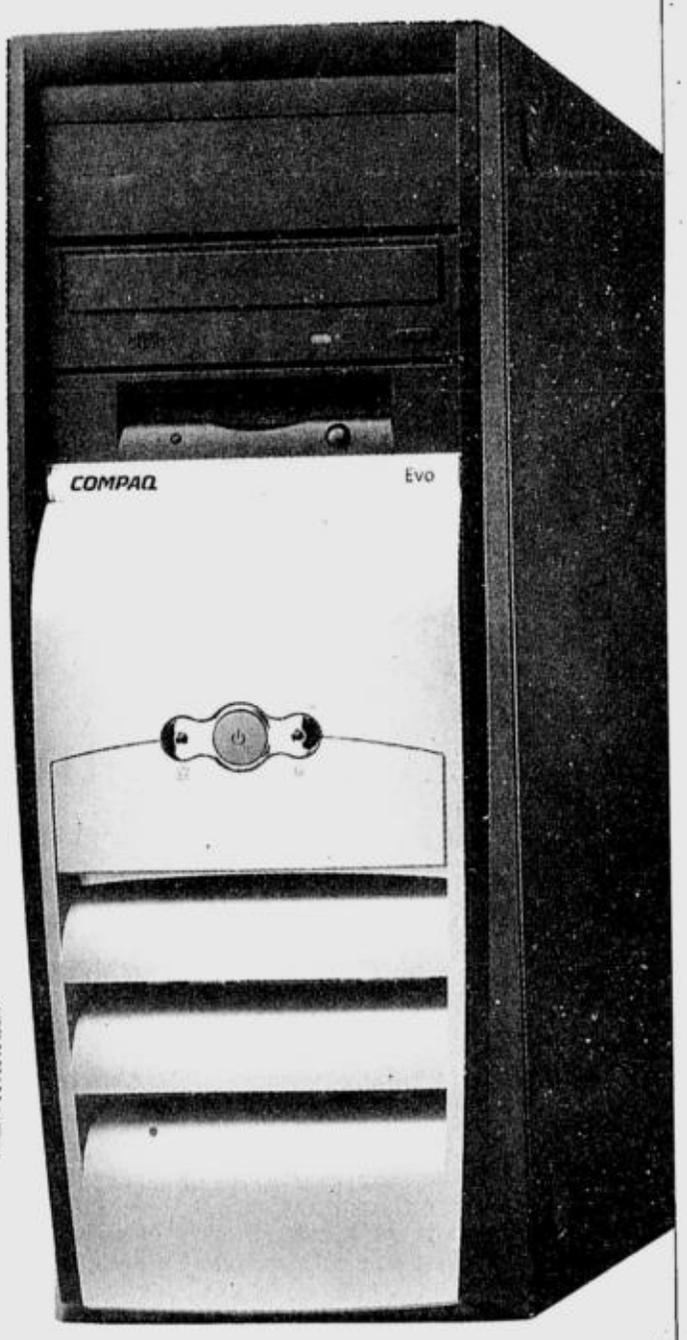
• 40GB HDD 7200rpm
• 48X CDROM
• AC97 audio with Premium Internal Speaker
• 32MB GeForceMX200 Video Controller
• Intel® 845 chipset
• Dual Install WinXP Pro/Win 2000 OS

Note: Picture shown includes optional front audio and USB ports.



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• AC97 audio with Premium Internal Speaker
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COMPAQ

Metrobank nets P602M in Q1

By Elena R. Torrijos

METROPOLITAN Bank and Trust Co., the country's largest bank, has beaten market expectations with a net income of P602.08 million in the first quarter.

The bank said this figure represented a net income that excluded those of its subsidiaries.

The Metrobank group reported last year a net income of P402.16 million.

The bank said earlier its first-quarter income would be up between 10 percent and 50 percent, but most analysts had expected a gain at the lower end of the range, in the order of 10 percent to 20 percent.

"It's much higher than expected, looking at my full-year forecast of P2.1 billion," said Ed Bancod of BNP Paribas.

"I have decided to amend (the forecast), but I still want to be a bit cautious given tightening (interest margin) spreads."

Despite the profit gain, analysts were skeptical that the bank would achieve full-year earnings of P3 billion to P3.5 billion as it had forecast.

The average market forecast for full-year earnings is P2.51 billion, according to Multex Global Estimates.

"I am maintaining my full-year net income forecast of P2.369 billion," said Elline Salvatierra at KGI Securities, adding that margins should shrink in the low interest-rate environment.

"There is really slack loan demand so banks have to be very competitive with rates offered to borrowers," she added. "Metrobank might see some contraction in net interest margins going forward."

Bancod said the spurt in first-quarter income was because Metrobank had been able to lock in some investments before interest rates fell.

"But as these loans mature, they will have to be re-priced downwards, and the longer interest rates remain at these levels, the bigger the likelihood spreads will tighten," he said.

Analysts said besides the squeeze on margins, Metrobank could also be affected by asset quality issues, although it was in a better position than most other local banks.

Metrobank said in a disclosure to the stock exchange it recorded a net interest income of P2.26 billion in the first quarter and had set aside provisions for probable losses of P210.93 million in the period.

The bank, which has total assets of $8.67 billion, said the parent entity had non-performing loans of P18.06 billion, or a ratio of 10.83 percent to total loans, as of March 22. On a consolidated basis, NPLs were at 12.2 percent of all loans at end-December.

Industry-wide, the figure was 18.4 percent at the end of February.

Last December, US investment house Lehman Brothers signed an agreement to buy more than P15 billion of Metrobank's NPLs and set up an asset management company. But the plan has been put on hold pending new laws.

Security Bank Corp., meanwhile, announced that its net income in the first quarter rose slightly to P133 million from P127 million year-on-year. ***With a report from Reuters***

JG Summit first-quarter income down 22.5%

JG SUMMIT Holdings Inc. has disclosed that its consolidated net income last year dropped 22.5 percent to P2.31 billion.

Documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission earlier this week showed that JG Summit's lower net income was a result of P335.5 million in non-recurring items, including write-downs in the value of its investments and securities, as well as write-offs of various plants and shutdown expenses.

Excluding these items, the group's profits would have fallen by only 9.8 percent.

JG Summit, holding firm of companies controlled by the family of retail tycoon John Gokongwei Jr., said its consolidated revenue last year grew 28.3 percent to P44.19 billion.

It informed the SEC that the "substantial" increase in its earnings came from higher figures tendered by food firm Universal Robina Corp. and telecommunications company Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc.

These two companies reported a 20.2-percent and 35.1-percent growth in earnings.

JG Summit said higher revenues from its property arm, Robinsons Land Corp., and textile business, Litton Mills Inc., also contributed to its bottom line.

Another source of income was Cebu Air Inc., it said.

The higher revenues from these sources, however, were pared down by lower equity earnings in its other affiliates, namely United Industrial Corp. Ltd. and First Private Power Corp.

JG Summit's earnings from these companies shrank 46.4 percent.

JG Summit said its gross profit margins improved to P19.96 billion last year from P15.64 billion the previous year, but its operating expenses rose 44.8 percent from P8.05 billion in 2000.

The company said its operating expenses grew because of a 41-percent hike in depreciation and amortization charges to P6.2 billion.

Aboitiz reports 158% earnings hike

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures Inc. yesterday reported a 158-percent rise in its first-quarter net income to P511 million on strong earnings from its power generation and banking businesses.

Aboitiz Equity chief financial officer Juan Antonio Bernad said in an interview that the company's higher earnings came largely from a 165-percent hike in the contribution of its power generation unit, Aboitiz Power Corp.

Aboitiz Power added some P302 million to its parent firm's bottom line. Its income, in turn, came from Luzon Hydro Corp., which operates the 70-megawatt Bakun AC power plant.

Aboitiz Equity's banking subsidiaries—Union Bank of the Philippines and City Savings Bank—pumped in a combined P183 million, up 140 percent in the first quarter year-on-year, with Union Bank accounting for P181 million.

Aboitiz Equity's earnings from its portfolio investments, meanwhile, went up 36 percent to P85 million. Its food manufacturing subsidiary, Pilmico Foods Corp., contributed 50 percent more at P70 million to its parent firm's bottom line.

Bernad said as of the first quarter, Aboitiz Equity's consolidated cash position amounted to P1.2 billion.

Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, on the other hand, rose 65 percent to P866 million, while earnings per share during the period jumped 160 percent to 10 centavos.

Reynolds sees turnaround next year

REYNOLDS Philippines Corp., the country's biggest aluminum maker, expects to revert to profitability next year with the comprehensive restructuring of its P3-billion debt burden.

In a news briefing yesterday, Reynolds president Jaime Gonzales said Reynolds' rehabilitation plan, which sought the infusion of P400 million in new credit to fund its operpations and capital outlays, would enable the company to reach its full operating capacity.

Reynolds has been incurring net losses since 1998, as huge interest expenses and foreign exchange losses have been eating up its operating profits, Gonzales said.

Its bottom line is still expected to be in the red this year.

Reynolds has reached an agreement with its major creditors to give it more time and more options to settle its debts.

Out of Reynolds' total debts, about P2.3 billion are unsecured, while P700 million are secured.

The company's biggest creditors are Land Bank of the Philippines and Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.

It has tapped PentaCapital Investment Corp. as a financial adviser.

Reynolds' secured creditors have agreed not to foreclose on the company's mortgaged assets.

Unsecured creditors, on the other hand, agreed to convert their exposure to equities to pare down Reynolds' debts.

DISCLOSURES

SINOPHIL Corp. has moved its annual stockholders meeting from May to Aug. 22, with record date on July 22.

***

BELLE Corp. has moved its annual stockholders meeting from May 30 to Aug. 22, with record date on July 22.

***

BASIC Consolidated Inc. has moved its annual stockholders meeting from May 31 to Aug. 30, with record date on July 30.

***

BENGUET Corp. has moved its annual stockholders meeting from May 28 to a date later than June 30 since its external auditor has yet to release its financial statements.

***

SECURITY Bank Corp. has declared a 10-centavo per share cash dividend.

***

ELECTED directors of **Philippine Trust Co.** were Emilio Yap, Jaime Laya, Emilio Gancayco, Antonio Ozaeta, Conrado Janairo, Jaime Sumulong, Basilio Yap, Ernesto Chan, Francisco Gochioco, Eusebio Go and Ricardo Versoza. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Meaning of Labor Day

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

LABOR Day slipped away from the Filipino psyche without leaving a deep and lasting meaning. The whole nation failed to capture its true and genuine implications on the struggle of the people for social justice, industrial peace, higher productivity and competitiveness, and, ultimately, a better quality of life for both workers and businessmen.

We attempted to celebrate the first of May within the limiting confines of our partisan dialectics, looking at each other as irreconcilable adversaries instead of social partners called upon to move the nation towards development and justice for all. Thus, Labor Day should not deteriorate into mayhem or an arena for class struggle marked by terrorism, murders and sabotage.

Labor's true cause

If the working class cannot rise above the compelling impulse of hatred and antagonism, if labor leaders are moved by passion and obfuscation instead of reason and equanimity, if trade unions are pursuing a national agenda of class conflict, then we cannot hope to attain industrial peace in this country.

We may as well as dismantle the legal frameworks for labor relations, abolish what are now the preferred modes of voluntary arbitration, conciliation and mediation, and allow free market forces to unleash their respective class hatred, transforming into weapons of mutual destruction and total obliteration. This, definitely, isn't the true cause of labor, for the first victims of chaos are the poor.

Capital's burden

If those who control the factors of production and distribution of goods and services continue to look at labor as merely a means of increasing capital instead of being the ends of all productive efforts, then the class struggle shall be exacerbated. If businessmen remain in their anti-labor biases, looking at unions as obstacles to profit instead of allies towards enhanced viability, then indeed we've got a big and basic problem.

As long as managers and supervisors allow themselves to become tools of capitalist oppression and exploitation instead of becoming catalysts for mutual accommodation and dialogue, then this nation will never be able to compete in a global business arena. The burden of capital is to lead with vision and compassion, to elevate the status of labor to the level of an equal partner instead of mere servants at its beck and call.

Government's role

If government officials persist in their ineptitude and corruption, if the bureaucracy continues to be a tool for fomenting antagonism instead of industrial peace, if civil servants don't shape up to the imperatives of honest and committed public service, then the government will start to attain a level of irrelevance in labor-management relations and tripartism may as well become an artifact in the history of Philippine labor relations.

If conciliators and voluntary arbitrators continue to be the least favored cousins to commissioners and arbiters, then the state shall remain unfaithful to the Constitution that mandates us to prefer the voluntary modes of labor-dispute settlement. The government's role is basic: to stand firm in its mandate to protect labor, without oppressing capital, to nurture industrial peace and to promote social justice without destroying business viability.

HR's challenge

HR managers face the challenge of building the policy infrastructure, as well as developing people skills and capability to cope with the challenge of keeping the socio-economic equilibrium within the framework of the corporation. HR managers are no longer mere recruiters of personnel and keepers of 201 files. They are now advocates for the improvement of the peoples' quality of work life as well as true partners of business managers in the creation of quality products and services.

HR should now be trusted to be the catalyst for change and organization development. The true meaning of Labor Day to HR is the pursuit of changing paradigms of both managers and rank-and-file so as to cease fighting each other and become true allies.

Politicians: Keep out

Labor Day is not a forum for either pro- or anti-GMA or pro- or anti-Erap. It is non-partisan. It provides a venue for both the poor and the privileged to showcase the imperative of social partnership as a strategy for national development.

We should not use the day to pursue any partisan agenda. It is too selfish of anyone to ride on the event as a vehicle for politicking. Labor Day belongs to all.

True meaning

Labor Day should cease to be an occasion for violence and abrasive abuses inflicted by both labor and capital upon each other. This nation, if it wants to move forward, should learn to accept this inevitable social compact as the strong foundation for both peace and progress.

If we all remain arrogant and antagonistic to each other, then we may as well forget Labor Day as an important day for reflection. We may just look at it as another alibi for lengthening our vacations in the name of tourism, a trend established by this administration. *SAYANG. (For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@pcppi.com.ph)*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, May 2, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	90	90	90	90	400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	69	70.5	69	70	1,460,300
China Banking Corp.	625	625	625	625	100
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	39	39.5	38.5	39	599,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	39.5	41	39.5	40	255,800
Philippine National Bank	53	53	52	53	32,100
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	200
Security Bank Corp.	18	19	18	18.75	94,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	22.75	23.5	22.75	23.25	42,900
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	40,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.38	0.42	0.38	0.42	70,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1425	1440	1425	1435	2,030
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1100	1100	1095	1095	2,690
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	30.5	30.5	30	30	35,500
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.59	0.62	0.59	0.6	5,510,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	640	645	640	645	31,570
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.041	0.042	0.04	0.042	6,500,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	12,000
Piltel	0.45	0.47	0.45	0.45	10,730,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	462.5	467.5	445	445	310,310
Ivantage Corp.	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.49	140,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.019	0.019	0.018	0.019	117,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	27	27	25.5	25.5	41,500
Manila Electric Co. B	40.5	42	39.5	39.5	2,758,600
Petron Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.66	1.66	3,422,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.76	1.8	1.74	1.8	1,255,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	54,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.95	2.95	2.85	2.95	1,609,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	30,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.84	1.84	1.76	1.76	13,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.27	0.3	0.27	0.3	740,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.63	0.65	0.63	0.65	230,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.12	2.1	2.12	286,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	14.5	14.5	14	14	238,500
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	31	31.5	31	31	445,800
RFM Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.34	283,000
Swift Food Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	22,000
San Miguel Corp. A	50	50	49.5	50	1,347,200
San Miguel Corp. B	58	58	57.5	58	634,700
Universal Robina Corp.	4.1	4.6	4.1	4.6	1,223,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6	6.1	6	6	7,401,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.1	2.16	2.1	2.12	576,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.45	0.45	610,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	4,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.8	2.85	2.8	2.85	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.61	0.61	4,290,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	250,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	50,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.1	6.1	13,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	20,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.48	1.5	1.48	1.5	3,290,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	29	29.5	28.5	28.5	215,300
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.11	0.115	0.11	0.115	230,000
Ionics Inc.	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.78	1.8	1,149,000
Keppel Phil. Holdings B	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	90,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.84	0.84	0.83	0.83	930,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	200,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	1,890,000
Music Corp.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	350,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	490,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.11	0.105	0.105	1,190,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	40,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.65	0.9	0.65	0.9	2,440,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	30,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	1,540,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	1,000,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	29.5	30.5	28.5	30	2,745,800
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	775	775	775	775	6,200
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	740	770	740	760	8,000
Jollibee Warrants	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	2,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.2	6,713,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	60,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	1,430,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.27	0.28	3,540,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.8	3	2.8	3	11,263,000
Highlands Prime Leisure	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.06	261,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.055	0.055	0.05	0.05	500,000
SM Development Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	40,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.3	6.1	6.2	11,398,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.041	15,100,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	250,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	3,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	500,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	600,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.004	0.004	0.0038	0.0038	60,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.004	0.004	0.0038	0.0038	72,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	50,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.16	500,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	1,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	120,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	2,593,020	144,687,225.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	191,187,430	588,508,360.00
PRO	44,321,000	211,416,569.60
Mining	18,950,000	728,200.00
OIL	134,270,000	658,500.00
GRAND TOTALS:	391,321,450	945,998,854.60
	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	568.71	UP 12.44
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,820.13	UP 5.21
PRO	620.98	UP 24.55
Mining	1,332.06	UNCH 0.00
OIL	1.36	UP 0.01
All Shares Index	759.99	UP 13.07
Composite	1,363.32	UP 17.23

NO. OF ADVANCES: 48; NO. OF DECLINES: 14; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 40; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 102; NO. OF TRADES: 3,182

CURRENCIES

May 02, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.104118	1.000000	50.5850
Japan	Yen	0.008657	0.007841	0.3966
United Kingdom	Pound	1.615988	1.463600	74.0362
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.311648	0.282260	14.2781
Switzerland	Franc	0.688568	0.623636	31.5466
Canada	Dollar	0.707904	0.641149	32.4325
Singapore	Dollar	0.611565	0.553894	28.0187
Australia	Dollar	0.594571	0.538503	27.2402
Bahrain	Dinar	2.928852	2.652661	134.1849
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.294424	0.266660	13.4890
Brunei	Dollar	0.609169	0.551724	27.9090
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000118	0.000107	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.025558	0.023148	1.1709
UAE	Dirham	0.300621	0.272272	13.7729
Korea	Won	0.000860	0.000779	0.0394
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.905700	45.8148
Brazil	Real	0.467847	0.423729	21.4343
Denmark	Kroner	0.134763	0.122055	6.1742
India	Rupee	0.022588	0.020458	1.0349
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.290634	0.263227	13.3153
Mexico	New Peso	0.117323	0.106259	5.3751
New Zealand	Dollar	0.494323	0.447708	22.6473
Norway	Kroner	0.132140	0.119679	6.0540
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018448	0.016708	0.8452
South Africa	Rand	0.104954	0.095057	4.8085
Sweden	Kroner	0.108080	0.097888	4.9517
Syria	Pound	0.025093	0.022727	1.1496
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.031892	0.028885	1.4611
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001292	0.001170	0.0592

Shares rise 1.3%

From page B1

There had been widespread concern followers of deposed President Joseph Estrada might try to replicate the violent riot they staged at the presidential palace gates on May 1 a year ago.

But their rally on Wednesday ended without incident.

Reports from the investment staff of the California Public Employees' Retirement System will recommend the fund to keep its public equity investments in the Philippines were also "a welcome development," said Manny Cruz of Mark Securities Inc.

Volume turnover rose to 382 million shares while value fell to P889.1 million from 297.17 million shares worth P918.12 million on Tuesday. ***AFP***

Smarting from Go

WITH the legal and ownership issues now safely behind it, S&R Price warehouse club will revert to using its more popular American trademark name, PriceSmart, later this month.

S&R Price is celebrating the first anniversary of its wildly successful Fort Bonifacio store on May 18, and it is likely that the name switch would take effect on that date, according to the grapevine.

The San Diego-based chain had to send no less than its president-CEO, Gilbert Partida (despite the Filipino-sounding surname, he is actually Mexican-American), to personally negotiate and settle with PriceSmart's original licensee, Jose Go of Ever-Gotesco-Orient Bank fame, in order to reacquire the right to use its name without any more legal impediments.

PriceSmart withdrew the Go license in 1998 after Go's heavily leveraged banking and shopping empire collapsed.

The long and short of it is that PriceSmart has agreed to pay the bankrupt banker/grocer a total of $1.5 million in cash to make Go literally go away and drop all his claims against his ex-principals.

Of the amount, Go is due to receive the balance of $500,000 from PriceSmart on Sept. 1, 2002.

In addition, PriceSmart has agreed to buy back for up to $1 million a "certain equipment" in the original PriceSmart warehouse store along the Alabang-Zapote Road.

That first PriceSmart in the country has been shuttered for months now, after, according to the grapevine, Allied Bank foreclosed the property.

Go, we understand, did not want the financial terms of the out-of-court settlement made public, fearing creditors and depositors of the shuttered Orient Bank beat him and secure a judicial attachment on the monies.

Being a US publicly listed company, PriceSmart had to disclose the terms to the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

With the Go problem gone and taking advantage of the retail boom, PriceSmart opened in March its third store, along Congressional Avenue in Quezon City—an instant hit like its Fort Bonifacio and Ortigas stores—and is simultaneously building two more, with either one due to open this November.

Antonio Evangelista of Ateneo Class '55 has been retained as the favored contractor—his Kanlaon Construction building both the Alabang and Roxas Boulevard stores—despite the fate that befell his famous classmate, you-know-who.

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

A real hot potato

MCDONALD'S abruptly stopped showing its new TV ad series the other day right after Senators Manuel Villar and Juan Flavier denounced the adverts for allegedly inculcating a culture of bribery among children.

The ads, which began showing only last weekend, showed an indulgent father surreptitiously handing his kid French fries under the table whenever the child gives an answer favoring the dad over the mom.

The ad was conceptualized and produced by Hemisphere Leo Burnett, the same agency that produced the award-winning and much talked-about Karen-Gina and Lolo ad campaign.

The "French-fries-for-paternal-favor" series, shot in McDonald's Congressional Avenue branch, was supposed to run in all TV channels for at least three months.

Out of commission

THE TARIFF Commission has suspended a long-time photocopying machine operator after it was found out that the employee had been sending surreptitiously copied documents to a foreign cement company during the controversial cement tariff hearings.

Instead of firing the employee, the usual "*awa*" prevailed, according to the grapevine, after the employee pleaded that he is but a few months short of retirement.

Strangely, the Tariff Commission did not even penalize or at the very least call to task the foreign cement firm.

Heard through the grapevine

PLEADING for more time to decide on the backlog of cases swamping him, Francis Garchitorena has asked for and would most likely be given an extension by the Supreme Court on his suspension/leave as presiding justice of the Sandiganbayan.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Gov't urged to revamp shipping, port agencies

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE AMERICAN Chamber of Commerce Inc. is pushing for a shake-up of state agencies overseeing the country's shipping and port facilities to address the rising costs of sea transport and substandard port services in the country.

In a letter to the Department of Trade and Industry, Amcham president Terry J. Emrick said the Macapagal administration should address these issues soon because "these problems would only continue to grow and make the competitiveness of the country much more difficult."

Emrick said job creation opportunities in rural areas would diminish because investors would not move their operations to areas outside of the major port areas. "To continue with the status quo is to exacerbate the trend of a high cost of living within the Philippines and an economy that is not competitive."

Emrick pushed for more private sector participation in setting maritime policies with the revival of the Shipping and Ports Advisory Council (SPAC) and nomination of more private sector representatives to the Philippine Ports Authority board.

The SPAC was formed in 1989 as an industry forum to resolve industry problems and formulate development policies for shipping and port services. The seven-member council is composed of the Department of Transportation and Communications, the PPA, the Maritime Industry Authority, the Philippine Coast Guard, the National Telecommunications Commission, and two private sector representatives.

Emrick said the government needed to strengthen the PPA by adding more private sector representatives and realigning the composition of government members.

Emrick also batted for the promotion of roll-on/roll-off shipping services as a national government policy to cut down on shipping costs by doing away with cargo handling services. He also urged the President to slash cargo-handling rates "which have been increased beyond warranted limits."

MRTC presses gov't to allow purchase of additional trains

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority is not keen on approving Metro Rail Transit Corp.'s $100-million proposal to get additional trains, but the consortium is standing its ground, saying ridership would exceed current capacity in a few years.

A Neda source disclosed that Edsa Metro Rail Transit-3 builder MRTC insisted on buying additional trains even though the Neda-Investment Coordination Committee already said that current passenger volumes did not support the need for these.

"MRTC insists on buying additional rolling stock, but we've told them that with the current passenger volume of MRT-3, there really is no need for additional trains. The volume can't support that yet," the source said.

However, MRTC spokesperson Paul Daza said in a telephone interview that, according to a study that the consortium conducted, once the railway is extended to Monumento, the ridership number could go up to as high as 600,000 passengers a day within a year or two.

"It makes no sense to open Phase 2 without additional rolling stocks. If there will be no additional trains, there will be longer headway and passengers will be lining up all the way to the sidewalk," he told the INQUIRER.

Headway refers to the time interval between trains. With the existing 73 trains—with 20 three-car trains running during peak hours—spanning the 13 stations—the headway is three minutes.

As soon as the MRT-3 North Avenue to Monumento extension project starts operating without additional trains, Daza said this headway could go up to as long as four to five minutes between trains.

The existing 16.8-kilometer Edsa MRT-3 line running from North Avenue in Quezon City to Taft Avenue in Manila had a daily ridership of about 350,000 passengers. Its maximum capacity is placed at 450,000 passengers a day.

MRTC's $100-million proposal to the Department of Transportation and Communications, which is now with the Neda-ICC, would allow the acquisition of 48 additional coaches that would result in 30 four-car trains, Daza said.

The existing MRT-3 trains are composed of three coaches each, but Daza said the consortium constructed the railway platforms with a 30-meter provision should the government approve the purchase of new trains and the upgrade of the existing ones into four-car trains.

But the Neda was firm in its stand not to allow the purchase of new trains, although it had not totally junked the proposal yet.

It added that the existing MRTC proposal should be studied again, with some details needing some ironing.

"We want an improvement in the terms, the original (Phase 1) contract should not be applicable," the Neda official said.

The Department of Justice had already given its opinion that the DOTC could already enter into a supplemental agreement with MRTC, but the Neda-ICC wanted a review of the proposal's terms, specially the cost.

Peso seen . . .

From page B1

Although Calpers had earlier given Manila a low score for market liquidity and the openness of its markets, the gain in the efficiency of settlements, which was reported to Calpers staff and board members this month, was enough to bump the country's total score into the range of admissible investments, he said.

The recommendation, which will be put before the Calpers Investment Committee on May 13, comes after the $150-billion pension fund stunned Asian markets in February by saying it would sell assets in the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia because those countries did not meet tough new standards in areas that, in some cases, included human rights.

The four countries joined a no-go list from Calpers—whose moves are closely watched in debt and equity markets—for public investment in countries such as Russia, China, Jordan and Pakistan.

The measure, which affected some $1 billion in emerging market holdings and sparked fears other large investors would follow suit, looked at factors ranging from market liquidity and transparency to political stability and protection of civil liberties.

Soon after the decision, officials from the Philippines—which missed the cut for financial rather than human rights reasons—began pressing the pension giant to rethink the decision to divest from the country. ***With a report from Reuters***

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People, Events & Products

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Anthony Pangilinan's balancing act

IT'S BEEN four years since Anthony Pangilinan was last seen starting up weekdays via the morning show "Wake Up Call" and closing the evenings on ABC 5's "The Big News". Apart from some TV commercials and his notable role during the Edsa 2 presidential turnover, little is known about what this man has been up to.

Off screen, Anthony has been running BusinessWorks Inc., a management training and development consultancy firm he put up together with his brother Joseph over 12 years ago. As president and chief trainer, he designs and conducts training programs for increased personal and professional effectiveness for a number of corporations, organizations, and academic and government institutions. BusinessWorks is known particularly for its Time and Life Management Training programs, where prioritization is the most basic principle.

Ironically, the challenge of practicing what he preaches is what made Anthony take a step back from the increasing demands of his on- and off-cam hosting commitments.

"I've had to reorganize my life in order to give my family my top priority, the best of me and not what's left of me," he explains. Anthony and wife, actress and columnist Maricel Laxa, have been kept busy with the other "company" he runs—their brood of four children. Being head honcho in this household has broadened Anthony's view on life. Running a company, delivering the news, and hosting is nothing compared to the challenge of the multi-tasking functions of a parent. "My organization, project management, and leadership skills are put to a test daily," he says in amazement. But his demeanor obviously softens when he adds, "Trite though it may sound, seeing how the children are developing into these strong-minded yet obedient individuals make the tasks of parenting worthwhile."

Anthony is back on TV, as anchor of the late evening news on IBC 13. Come May this year, Anthony is getting an opportunity to merge two major areas in his career, via a weekly show the same network is producing. He is bringing back "People First!," a TV special aired in 1995. The response then was great, it's definitely time to bring it back.

Won't the TV show, the news program, and his training firm, on top of the demands of parenthood, take a toll on him again? "Oh, it certainly will! But I'm not taking the challenge sitting down," Anthony assures. It will take the best of my limited 'heart and skill' to manage these competing time demands once again. My staff knows I'm taking less managerial roles in the firm to take in these new engagements. I'm also cutting my professional fees in the firm so the funds can be used to bring in more talent to fill the gaps I'm creating." A practical application of what he preaches: "Learn to say 'No' to honor your 'Yesses.'"

All these areas he is involved with today are guided by one purpose: to educate. Just like his favorite biblical leader David, Anthony aims to motivate and instruct both hearts and minds, with effective principles and techniques, "with an upright heart and a skillful hand" (Psalm 78:72).

NIVEA'S CONSUMER EXCELLENCE AWARD

Nivea, the world's number one skin care brand, has recently been awarded the National Consumers Excellence Award for the Most Outstanding Body Lotion at the 17th Annual Parangal ng Bayan held at the Philippine International Convention Center. The brand was cited for its contribution to public service, product quality, actual demonstration and general public opinion based on consumers satisfaction. Melvin Nubla (center), brand manager for Nivea, is congratulated by Lily Nicolas, secretary general of the Consumers Union of the Philippines. Looking on are (from left) Vicky Dizon, Parangal ng Bayan incoming chair, Rev. Dr. Sonia Lim, Parangal ng Bayan honorary awards chair, Sen. Robert Barbers, and Ambassador Barry Gusi of the Marianas Islands. Nivea offers a complete line of skin care products for all skin types.

LOT OWNERS, AT LAST

Beaming Julard Tejedor (right) and his wife receive from Rizal Governor Nini Yñares (third from left) the certificate of lot award in simple rites held at Purok Sumulong Court Areas in Barangay Dela Paz, Antipolo City. The National Housing Authority, represented by architect Eufemio Jacob (left), parcelled out and distributed the 2.8-hectare land valued at P8.46 million to 298 member-beneficiaries of Samahan ng Purok Sumulong Multi-Purpose Cooperative Inc. under its Community Land Acquisition Support Program. Representative Victor Sumulong (second from left) granted the association P140,000 through his Lingap Para sa Mahihirap fund to aid them in their monthly amortizations. Also shown are (from left) Antipolo City board member Zacarias Tapales and SPSMC president Cornelio Egamao, Jr. (partly hidden).

MOTORISTS GET FREE MENTOS

Perfetti Van Melle, makers of Mentos Cool Chews, in cooperation with Petron, treated Holy Week motorists to free Mentos Cool Chews tri-pack samples for three whole days. The sampling activity took place during Holy Wednesday and Maundy Thursday at selected Petron gas stations outbound from Metro Manila, including North Luzon Tollway and South Luzon Tollway. On Easter Sunday, samples were handed out at Manila-bound Petron North Luzon Tollway. Mentos Cool Chews, which comes in two exciting flavors (mint and hot mint) are also available in handy and unique clickboxes. Shown is a Petron Lakbay Alalay volunteer receiving his free samples from a Mentos Cool Chew promo girl.

8TH TRANSPLANT OLYMPICS ONGOING

The 8th Philippine National Transplant Games (PNTG) kicked off May 2 and runs until May 3 at the National Kidney Transplant Institute (NKTI) and the Philippine Sports Complex (PSC, formerly Ultra). The opening ceremonies were held at the NKTI. The PNTG, an annual sports event for organ recipients and donors, is organized by the Kidney Transplant Association of the Philippines (Kitap), a national support for kidney transplantees. The two-day sports event has lined up a series of outdoor and indoor games, which will be participated in by more than a hundred participants. The games were conceived to promote organ donation and highlight the capacity of organ transplantees to lead normal lives after their operation. Shown are kidney transplantees taking time to show off their athletic form during the games.

Buhain receives multiple recognition

FORMER National Book Development Board (NBDB) chair Dominador D. Buhain recently received multiple recognition from local and international book publishers associations.

At the recently held general assembly of the Philippine Educational Publishers Association (Pepa) in Tagaytay City, Buhain was unanimously elected president of the organization for the third consecutive time. The other board members elected were Fr. Richard Varela (Salesiana Publishers Inc.), Dr. Juanita Guerrero (Sibs Publishing), Lina P. Enriquez (Bookman Inc.), Florina Espiritu Santo (ABC Educational Products), Edgar Bago (Jave Publishing), Jerry Vicente Catabijan.(St. Mary's Publishing), Jorge Garcia (Abiva Publishing) and Bobby Cruz (FNB Educational Inc.).

In the Asian Pacific Publishers Association (Appa) general assembly last March 27 to 29, in Bangkok, Thailand, he was reelected vice president for the Asean region.

On the said occasion, Buhain likewise received on behalf of Rex Book Store Inc., of which he is president, the Gold Award for its publication of the book "Mask: the Other Face of Humanity."

Buhain is the first nominee of Aklat, a party-list organization, the primary objective of which is to assist in providing education to the marginalized sector through responsive indigenous materials.

Side A, Freestyle concert at Island Cove

SUMMER sizzles at Island Cove as the country's two hottest bands, Side A and Freestyle, perform in a "2-in-1" concert on May 4, Saturday, at the Concert Park of Island Cove Resort and Leisure Park in Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite. Tickets are at P300, and are available at all SM TicketNet outlets and at Island Cove. For inquiries, call (02)810-3718, 810-3732, 810-5351 or (046)434-0210. Visit www.islandcovephil.com or log on to islacove@info.com.ph or at inquiry@islandcovephil.com.

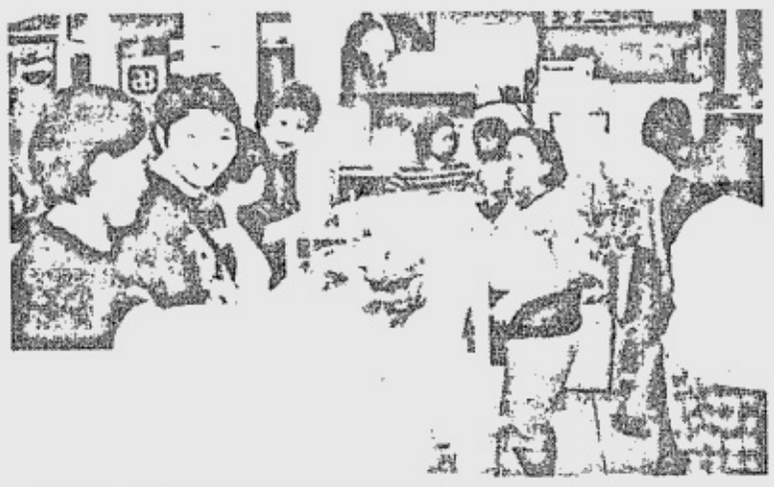
BITS Clips

PDA holds 94th annual confab

THE PHILIPPINE Dental Association is gearing up for its 94th Annual Convention and Scientific Meeting to be held at the Philippine International Convention Center from May 5 to 10. This annual event will revolve on the theme "Going Beyond the Limits" The PDA 94th Annual Convention will kick off with an opening ceremony at the PICC Plenary Hall on May 6 to be graced by Health Secretary Dr. Manuel Dayrit as keynote speaker. Scientific sessions, trade exhibits and health screenings will be scheduled everyday for member dentists for the duration of the convention. One of the highlights of the convention is the "President's Night," a formal affair where Dr. Luis Uy, incoming PDA president, will be sworn into office. The induction of PDA's new chapter and affiliate presidents from all over the country, PDA's officers for 2002-2003, the House of Delegates Officers and the Council of Presidents' Board of Governors will alsi be held. Guest of honor will be Sen. Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel. Colgate sponsors the event.

Personality packaging workshop slated

PUBLIC relations, sales and marketing consultant Joscephine Gomez will conduct a workshop on personality packaging on Sunday, May 5 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Summit Lounge of the Manila Galleria Suites on ADB Avenue, Pasig City. To be discussed are the dos and donts of dressing for men and women and make-up at the workplace and for after-work cocktails and dinners. Fabrics, colors and cuts for different shapes, sizes and personalities as well as appropriate shoes, bags and jewelry for different occasions will also be taken up. Participants will be evaluated individually and prescribed the right packaging for their desired image. Gomez received the 1997 Parangal ng Bayan Young Achiever Award for Culture and the Arts and the 2000 Gintong Sikap Award for Professional Achievement. The workshop is presented by The Corporate Mind Management Consultancy and Executive Training Company. For details, call 687-7898 or e-mail corpmind@edsamail.com.ph.



MAMA SITA AWARD FOR CULINARY EXCELLENCE

Mam Sita Foundation's 'Search for a Cooking Family' has drawn six qualified nominees in its effort to recognize the contribution of carinderia owners to the economy and nation building. The nominees were chosen after a six-month search of eateries with a capitalization of less than P200,000, displaying a health permit, using natural ingredients and practicing ecological waste management in the kitchen. Noted chefs and food critics Bambi Lichauco, Ambeth Ocampo, Lourdes Labrador, Joseph Cortes and Victor Reyes will select the winner who will receive a cash prize of P30,000 during the awarding rites to be held at the Department of Tourism Auditorium in August to coincide with the MSF anniversary. The Soroptimist International of Mandaluyong Club through its Grassroots Development Program supports this project. Soroptimist Perry G. Reyes (fifth from left) visits the nominees in the 'Search for a Cooking Family.'

Product FILES

Bubbles, waves galore at 8 Waves

8 WAVES Waterpark in San Rafael, Bulacan, featuring the country's biggest wave pool, has added new and exciting facilities designed to make it a premier resort destination north of Manila. This summer, patrons will be treated to three new king-sized bubble pools and a mini Olympic-size lapping pool in addition to its 2,788-sqm wave pool that generates waves 8 feet high.

The waterpark, which started operating only last year, also features a 9-hole mini golf course, a kiddie pool with Noah's Ark slide, a beach volleyball court, playground, kiddie car rides, food court and souvenir shop, pool umbrellas, spacious bamboo huts and long span sheds, air-conditioned VIP rooms and function halls.

Open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the summer season, 8 Waves is just over an hour's drive from the North Expressway toll exit. For more details, call 0919-5056486 or (044)766-5268.

TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Flush factor

Q. Why are the flush handles on toilets on the left side?

A. Most early flush toilets were operated by a chain above the tank that had to be pulled down by hand. Almost all of the chains were located on the left side of the toilet, for the user had more leverage when pulling with the right hand while seated. When the smaller handled near the top of the tank were popularized in the 1940's and 1950's, many were fitted onto existing toilets then equipped with pull chains. Therefore, it was cheaper and more convenient to place the new handles where they fitted standard plumbing and fixtures.

Take a Tip. At about 7 gallons a flush, the toilet is your household's worst water waster. Water displacement is the simplest way of saving water in flush toilets. To save as much as a gallon a flush, displace some water in the tank with rocks, a brick, or a plastic jug of sand. But don't overdo or you'll cause an incomplete flush.

Classified Odd. Norik Hakpisan, a 24-year-old music student in Chelsea, London, was found dead on October 5, 1982, after being caught in a flash fire while trying to relieve a bad case of hemorrhoids with gasoline. The fumes from an open bottle of gasoline had been ignited by a hot plate. Hakpisan's brother, Hiak, said that relieving hemorrhoids with paraffin was an old family remedy, but that Norik had apparently used gasoline instead.

WORD WATCH

Shrapnel (shrap n'l) : after British General Henry Shrapnel, who developed a forerunner of the modern hand grenade in the early 1800s.

HP prepares to absorb Compaq

NEW YORK—With the last obstacle cleared, Hewlett Packard prepared to complete its acquisition of Compaq in the biggest-ever merger in the computer industry, creating a giant in the sector second only to IBM.

In a statement, HP said Wednesday that it expected to close the deal on Friday and said the launch of the new HP would take place on May 7.

The bitter contest over the merger, valued at some $20 billion, appeared to end Tuesday when a Delaware court rejected a lawsuit from HP family heir Walter Hewlett contending that the March 19 shareholder vote was tainted.

In a vindication for HP management, Delaware Chancery Court Judge William Chandler dismissed all of Hewlett's claims that the March 19 shareholders vote was tainted by misrepresentations and threats or promises made to a big institutional investor, Deutsche Bank.

Shortly after the ruling, the eldest son of HP co-founder Bill Hewlett threw in the towel and said he would "do everything possible to support the successful implementation of HP's acquisition of Compaq and encourage others who have shared my views in the past several months to do the same." ***AFP***

MORE HELP FOR POOR

IMF vows to push for WB loans

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast—International Monetary Fund chief Horst Koehler on Wednesday pledged to "forcefully" push the World Bank to focus more on making small loans to poor people in rural areas rather than to projects costing millions of dollars.

Koehler, midway through a weeklong swing through five African nations, heard business leaders at the local chamber of commerce complain they were unable to find small loans for stocked-up costs.

Others accused big World Bank-sponsored projects of forcing them out of business.

The IMF managing director said he sympathized, reiterating a theme he has been pressing all week—that small loans, known as micro credits, were key to alleviating poverty among Africa's poorest rural regions.

But Koehler took that view further, saying he would work to convince World Bank president James Wolfensohn that the bank's private lending arm, the International Finance Corp., should work more on projects that directly help the poor.

"I will go back and forcefully ask Jim Wolfensohn to concentrate here even more and ask the IFC to maybe not look at $1 million projects but maybe to the $10, $100, $500 projects, because that would help, as I believe, in the rural areas," Koehler told a lively town hall-style meeting here.

World Bank loans are granted to governments while its IFC arm lends to commercial enterprises. The IFC has made headlines lately for its financing role in the controversial Indian power plant built by now-disgraced energy trader Enron Corp.

"We look forward to discussing this further with Mr. Koehler so that we can understand the context in which he made these remarks," World Bank spokesperson Caroline Anstey told Reuters.

Again stressing that small rural businesses would need to play a key role in job creation and economic growth in desperately poor rural areas, Koehler said, "I will go back and talk to Jim Wolfensohn and try to persuade him to give more attention to this area of support."

Later at a news briefing, Koehler said he was using his trip this week to Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso and Ghana to gather input and suggestions from politicians, business leaders, aid workers and others to help the lender assess how best to tailor its activities to best reduce poverty.

Returning to the issue of small loans, he said: "Of course this is not only an issue for the IMF . . . it is a major issue for the World Bank . . . how to work in low income countries with (underdeveloped) financial sectors and in particular to develop micro financing."

"(Economic) growth, which is not reaching out to the poor in the rural areas, in the end, will not help," he said. ***Reuters***

Malaysia's trade surplus soars 34% in March

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia's trade surplus soared 34.2 percent in March from the month before, boosted by electrical and electronic products, government statistics showed Thursday.

Malaysia posted a surplus of 5.1 billion ringgit ($1.3 billion) in March from 3.8 billion ringgit in February, marking the 53rd consecutive monthly trade surplus since November 1997, the International Trade and Industry Ministry said in a statement.

The United States, Singapore, Japan, China and Hong Kong were the top five export destinations, jointly accounting for 59.5 percent of total exports in March.

Electrical and electronic products contributed 79.8 percent of Malaysia's exports to the United States, which rose by 34.6 percent after a sharp decline of 12 percent in January.

Exports to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations increased by 30.3 percent to 7.8 billion ringgit, while those to Japan rose 6.3 percent to 3.5 billion.

Exports to China, the fourth largest export market in March, posted an increase of 39.8 percent to 1.7 billion ringgit in the highest monthly value ever recorded.

Malaysia's total exports in March rose 27.2 percent month-on-month to 30.8 billion ringgit, with electrical and electronics products being the top revenue earner, accounting for 58.7 percent.

Total imports rose 25.7 percent at 25.7 billion ringgit, mainly due to increase in imports of intermediate, capital goods and consumer goods.

Malaysia posted a trade surplus of 13.3 billion ringgit for the first quarter of 2002, with total exports standing at 82.5 billion ringgit and imports at 69.2 billion.

Last year, Malaysia's trade surplus dipped 13.1 percent to 53.73 billion ringgit due to the effects of the US recession.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who is also finance minister, has predicted the economy would grow 3 percent this year, down from an earlier official forecast of a 4-5 percent expansion.

The premier said the economy was likely to have grown 0.5-1.0 percent in 2001, down from an earlier government projection of 1.0-2.0 percent. ***AFP***

Diversification key to auto sales growth in Japan

TOKYO—In Japan's saturated auto market, sales growth can only be achieved through diversifying the range of products while maintaining the distinction between marques, believes the outgoing head of DaimlerChrysler Japan.

"When Mercedes Benz Japan was founded in 1986, maybe we had 10 models—now, we have something like 55," Rainer Jahn, who is soon leaving Japan after 14 years here, said in an interview with AFP.

His time here has spanned many changes; DaimlerBenz took control of Chrysler, the new auto giant acquired a controlling stake in Mitsubishi Motors Corp. and sealed an alliance with South Korean carmaker Hyundai.

From a company with a single luxury marque Mercedes, the Stuttgart-based group has evolved into a giant with a stable of badges covering most market segments including Chrysler, Jeep and Smart.

"We have seen cooperation, alliances, mergers—something that five years ago people would have thought was not possible," Jahn said.

The opening of the Japanese market to imported vehicles, which followed a hard-fought battle in the 1980s, has reached its limit. After peaking at 428,000 vehicles or 10 percent of the domestic market in 1996, the level of imports has stagnated at around 270,000 a year since 1998.

Mercedes accounts for some 46,000 of those annually, and Chrysler-Jeep another 8,000.

On the other hand, three of Japan's big five carmakers—Mazda, Mitsubishi and Nissan—have since come under foreign control.

Considered invincible in the '80s, Japan's car industry has not been spared the industry-wide consolidation in both passenger car and commercial vehicle sectors. ***AFP***

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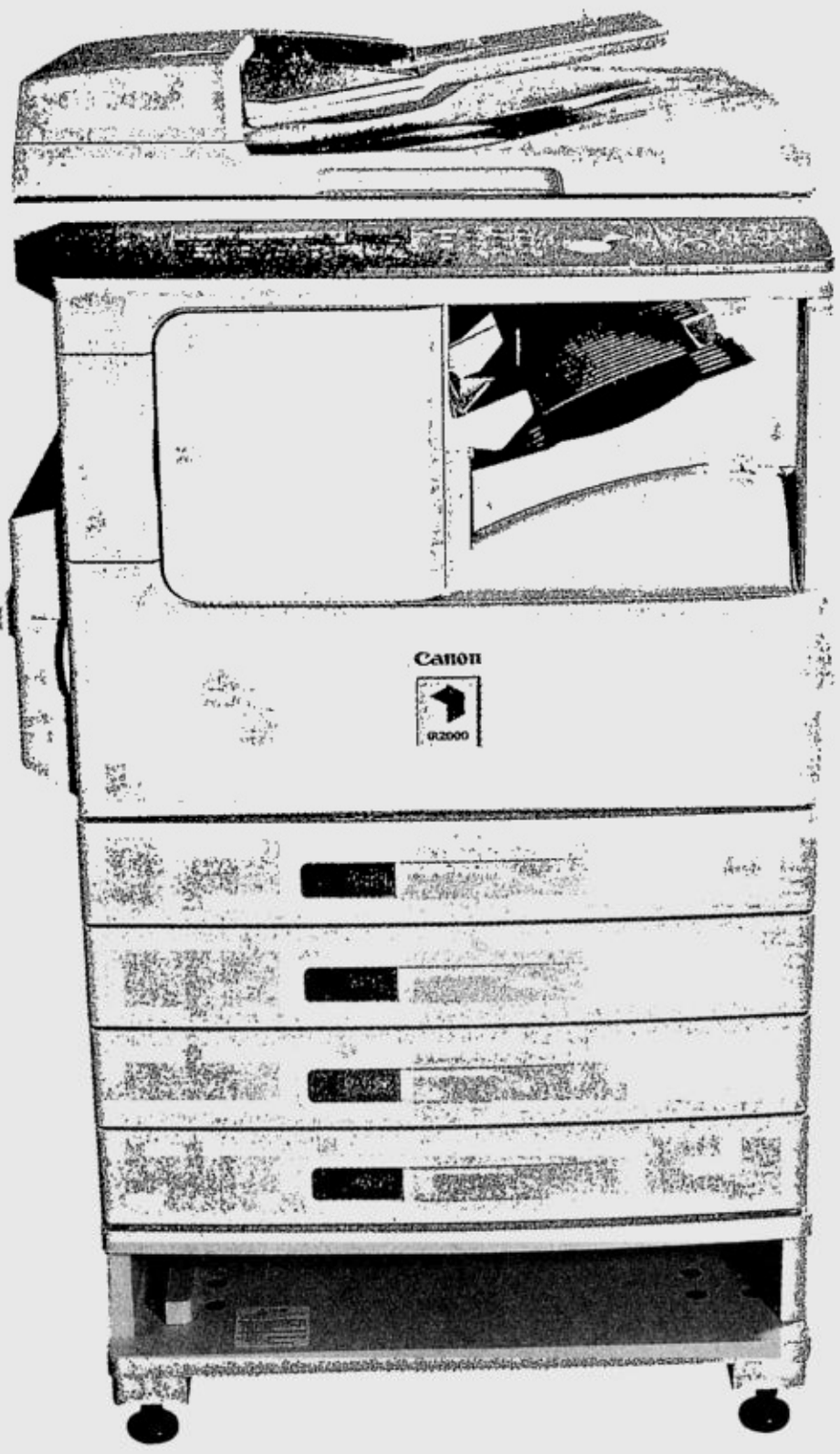

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(PDI-April 26; May 3 & 10, 2002)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE SPOUSES SERGIO C PAUG AND DOLORES S PAUG WAS SETTLED BY SELF ADJUDICATION BY THE SOLE HEIR PAULA S PAUG PER DOC. NO. 563; PAGE NO. 14; BOOK NO. 3; SERIES OF 2002 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. JUANITO M. SAAVEDRA
PDI-April 26, May 3 & 10, 2002

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Bid documents may be secured from the Bids and Awards Committee at the Office of the Administrative Officer, Ground Floor, PRC Building, P. Paredes St., Sampaloc, Manila beginning May 6-9, 2002.

Prospective bidders are required to submit the following pre-qualified requirements to the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee on or before **May 15, 2002** at 10:00 a.m.

1. Company profile
2. SEC Registration
3. 2002 Business License/Permit
4. Latest Audited Financial Statement
5. List of Clients and References

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ATTY. JOAQUIN P. YUSECO, JR.
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I will enter into life.

And if I go
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vibrating to a different measure
behind a veil you cannot see through.

You will not see me
So you must have faith.

I long for the time when we can soar
together again
both aware of each other

Until then, live your life to its fullest
And when you need me,
Just whisper my name in your heart
I will be there.

- St. Therese of the Child Jesus

We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

Hortensia
Robbie, Isa, Sandy, Nonoy & Aiveth
Ria, Mikko, Iggy & Alicia

Our Beloved "Mama"

Adoracion A. Estavillo

February 22, 1928 - April 27, 2002
of Pinili, Ilocos Norte

Peacefully joined her husband Federico (†), and our Heavenly Father.

She is survived by her loving children and in-laws **Edna, Shirley** and **Ernie, Farley** and **Jojo, Glenn** and **Lux, Audie** and **Vangie,** and **Randy;** and her grandchildren **Sharon, Richard** and **Joshy, Margret, Patricia, Luigi** and **D.J. (†), Karen, Zandro,** and **Zacko, Jenny, Alpro, Jaelene,** and **Prong, B.J., Glen Marie (†), Tricia Ann, Trina, Tiffany,** and **Frederick.**

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Arnneta Avenue, Quezon City from May 3, 2002 until May 5, 2002.

Interment will be on May 11, 2002 in Pinili, Ilocos Norte.

"I am the way, the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

DR. SEVERINO G. RECTO

Peacefully joined his Creator on May 1, 2002
at the age of 76.

His wife **Lilia**; children and in-laws **Raul** and **Tintin, Susan** and **Junee, Edgar** and **Lynette, Merle** and **Fred, Cecile** and **Francis, Allan** and **Gingging, Helen** and **Damian, Ramon** and **Sofie**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City and will be transferred at 9:00 a.m., Sunday, May 5, 2002 at the family residence at Soriano Subdivision, Molo, Iloilo City.

Interment will be on May 11, 2002 at the Forest Lake Memorial Park, Mandurriao, Molo, Iloilo City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Anne Church, Molo, Iloilo City.

Our Dearest Mama

MERCY GORRICETA CORDERO

Has peacefully joined her Creator on May 01, 2002
at the age of 64.

Together with our loving **Papa, Manuel**, we her children **Ramona Christine & Arsenio Benedicto Jr.,, Jose Ma. Rey & Geraldine Salvador, Josefina Angela & Emilio Nadres** and **Jonathan & Carlota Dizon**; Grandchildren **Krissy, JC, Mark, Gabe, Elli, Franco** and **Maui**; brothers and sisters **Ross & Marina Sanchez, Arcadio** and **Suzette Barrido, Felix, Jr. (†), Franklin & Arlene Tobias, Francis (†) & Eva Lacson, Therese & Carlos Jalandoni Jr., Larry & Agnes Gamboa, Gingging & Reza Shabestari**; nephews, nieces, in-laws, relatives and friends request you to pray for the repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Capilla Aurora B of Arlington East The Garden Chapels, 1354 C. Raymundo Avenue corner Mercedes Avenue, Pasig City.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 05, 2002 at Sto. Rosario Memorial Park, Taytay, Rizal after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, Ortigas, Greenheights Chapel.

CLASSIFIEDS

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Date: May 3, 2002

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for rural infrastructure component for which this invitation is issued.
2. The Local Government Unit (LGU) of Lambayong as implementing partner of the DAR for ARCP, invite prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and if eligible, to bid for the Rehabilitation of Pidtiquian-Pimbalayan to New Cebu Farm to Market Road.
3. Eligibility statement forms and bidding documents may be secured by interested bidders at the Office of the Chairman, Bid and Award Committee (BAC) upon payment of non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (Php2,000.00) per set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Submission of application for eligibility must be received in sealed envelopes on or before **May 8, 2002**, 10:00 a.m. at Office of the Chairman addressed to: The Chairman, Bid and Award Committee, Municipality of Lambayong.
5. A Pre-bid conference shall be held on **May 17, 2002**, 2:00 p.m. at Office of the Chairman, Bids and Award Committee (BAC).
6. The submission and opening of bids will be on **May 31, 2002**, 10:00 a.m. Late bids will not be accepted. The bid shall be accompanied by a GSIS bid security of 2-½% of the approved budget or its equivalent and to be posted in favor of the LGU. The bid security shall be valid for 120 days.
7. The approved budget for this project is Eleven Million Four Hundred Ninety One Thousand Seven Hundred Nineteen & 77/100 (Php11,491,719.77) pesos only. Only contractors classified as Medium A by the CIAP with appropriate classification are the subject of this invitation.
8. The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify to the bidder for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to the government. The provision of PD 1594 and its implementing Rules and Regulations as amended August 2000, shall apply to this invitation.

(Sgd.) **HON. RAMON M. ABALOS**
Chairman, Bid and Award Committee

(PDI - May 3, 2002)

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Notice is hereby given that **CANON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES, INC.** has transferred its offices from 27/F Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City and is now located at **Techno Plaza One, 18 Orchard Road, Eastwood, Quezon City 1110.**

(PDI - May 3, 2002)

PHILIPPINE CARABAO CENTER
Department of Agriculture

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The **Philippine Carabao Center (PCC)**, created under Republic Act No. 7307, an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture, is inviting interested Filipino Contractors or firms with a valid license issued by the Philippine Contractor Accreditations Board (PCAB) and classified as Category AAA, to apply for prequalification and submit bids for the following project at the PCC National Gene Pool and Headquarters at Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija described below:

PCC RESEARCH AND TRAINING FACILITIES PHASE III

Both license and certificate must be unexpired before the prequalification, evaluation, after opening of bids and during the entire duration of the project.

The sequence of dates for carrying out this prequalification and bid shall be as follows:

1. Issuance of the Pre-C Form upon payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00, **May 10 to 15, 2002** at the Office of the Executive Director. Incomplete applications shall not be accepted.
2. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished prequalification statement is on **May 23, 2002.**
3. Notice of prequalified and prediqualified contractors will be issued not later than **June 24, 2002.** Only prequalified contractors shall be invited to submit proposals.
4. Issuance of Bid-Tender Forms, Plans Specification and Requirement Forms, **June 25 to 28, 2002** at the Office of the Executive Director, upon payment of P1,500.00 which amount is non-refundable.
5. Pre-Bidding conference is scheduled at 10:00 A.M. on **August 14, 2002** at the Office of the Executive Director, 5th Floor, DCIEC Building, NIA Compound, EDSA, Quezon City.
6. Submission of duly accomplished bid-tender and supplemental documents shall not be later than 10:00 A.M. on **August 28, 2002**, at the Office of the Executive Director, 5th Floor, DCIEC Building, NIA Compound, EDSA, Quezon City after which opening of bids will be done immediately.

All particulars relative to the prequalification, bid bond, pre-bid conference, evaluation and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of P.D. 1594 and its implementing rules and regulations as amended.

The Philippine Carabao Center reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or waive any defect or required formality therein and to award the project to the proponent whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **LIBERTADO C. CRUZ**
Chairman
Prequalifications, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - May 1, 2 & 3, 2002)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
Pambansang Korporasyon Sa Elektrisidad
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

AD NO. PD 2002-13

Pre-Bid Conference	: May 7, 2002	-	2:00 PM
Opening Date	: May 16, 2002	-	9:00 AM
E-Bidding Date	: May 21, 2002	-	9:00 AM

2002-13-01 **SERVICES: STANDARD PENETRATION TESTS with LABORATORY & SLOPE STABILITY MAPPING & ANALYSIS RE-ENGINEERING GEOLOGICAL/ GEOTECHNICAL EVALUATION CONTRACT WORK for 101 TOWER SITES (North Luzon 230 KV Transmission System Upgrading Project covering Binga S/Y, Benguet Province to San Manuel S/S, Pangasinan.**

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Room, Ground Floor Bldg. 2 NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue cor. Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Eligibility forms and bidding documents are available on **May 2, 2002** upon payment of P50.00 which is non-refundable & presentation of supplier's number (DCE).

Issuance of eligibility forms and bidding documents mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. For inquiries please call No. 921-2574. Last day of issuance of bidding documents **May 13, 2002.**

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI - May 2 & 3, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Intramuros, Manila

DEPARTMENT ORDER NO. 21-02
Series of 2002

SUSPENSION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT REQUIREMENT FOR RESIDENT FOREIGN NATIONALS

1. The implementation of Rule I (Coverage and Exemption), Paragraph 1 (1.6) of the Omnibus Guidelines for the Issuance of Employment Permits to Foreign Nationals (Department Order No. 12, Series of 2001) is hereby suspended until further notice pending review of this and related-provisions of the Omnibus Guidelines.
2. All Regional Offices shall submit to the Bureau of Local Employment by **May 31, 2002**, a detailed report specifying the names, addresses and the fact of payment by resident foreign nationals prior to the issuance of this Department Order.
3. This Order shall take effect immediately.

(Sgd.) **PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS**
Secretary

(PDI - May 3, 2002)

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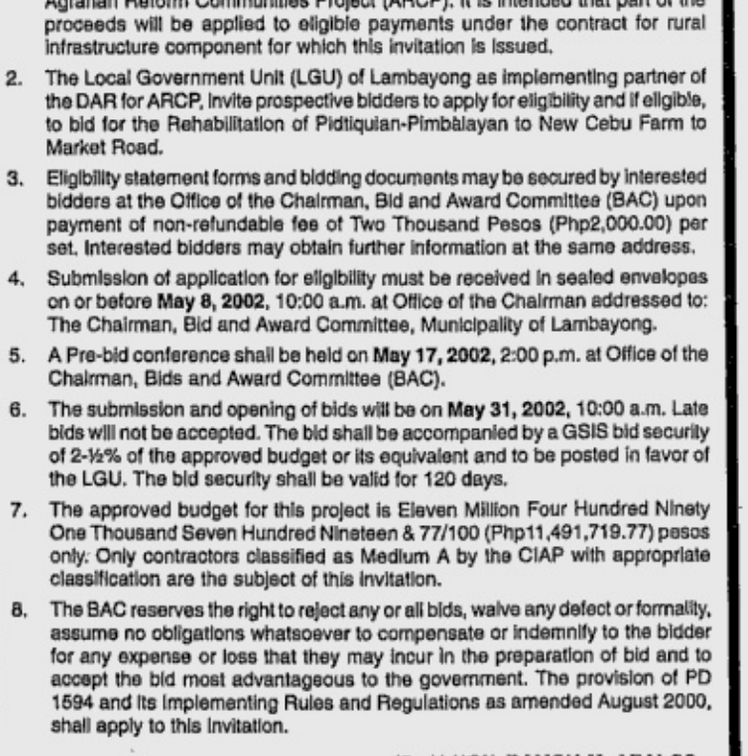


BUSINESS

RP to seek greater access to China

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINES will ask China to give wider access to 99 export products ranging from agriculture commodities to industrial goods worth nearly $200 million.

In a business presentation, Bureau of International Trade Relations Director Ramon Vicente Kabigting said these products were chosen because of their high annual growth rate from 1996 to 2000 at a maximum 250 percent, substantial contribution to the country's export earnings, and ranking among the top 100 exports to China and the world.

The products identified by the government for improved entry to China are fish, fruits and nuts, seaweed and other algae, vegetable fats and oils, mineral products, chemical and allied industries, plastics, wood charcoal and scrap, newsprint, textile, articles of stone, base metals, machinery, electrical equipment, motor vehicle parts, optical fibers, furniture, and sports equipment. These account for a third of the country's exports to China.

Kabigting said the Philippines would push these products during the upcoming negotiations for the creation of a free trade area between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and China.

The Asean-China free trade area has been billed as potentially the world's largest trading block, with 1.7 billion consumers, $2 trillion in regional gross domestic product, and total trade of $1.23 billion.

A study by the Asean secretariat showed that a free trade area would boost Asean exports to China by 48 percent, jack up China's exports to Asean by 55 percent, and increase Asean's GDP by 0.9 percent to $5.4 billion and China's by 0.3 percent to $2.2 billion.

Kabigting said a regional alliance with China would lower costs, increase economic efficiency and intra-regional trade, pave the way for greater specialization in production based on comparative advantage, boost regional real income, and create new trade.

Kabigting said increased competition from a free trade area should improve productivity and economic welfare, attract more investments to the region, shore up spending for research and development, and spur strategic alliance between Asean's and China's industries.

STRAWBERRY farms like this one may soon find a huge market in China.

Lorenzo bats for pest-fighting corn

PRESIDENTIAL adviser for job creation and agriculture Luis Lorenzo Jr. has asked the government "to push the agricultural sector forward" with the commercialization of a pest-resistant corn variety that produces higher yield than those presently used in Philippine farms.

Lorenzo issued the call following intensified research launched by several Asian countries on biotechnology application in agriculture leading the commercialization of biotech-processes seeds. India has taken the lead with its recent approval of the commercialization of biotechnology-processed cotton.

Hot money flows reach $159.2M

NET inflow of portfolio investments, or "hot money," into the Philippines has reached $159.2 million as of April, up 180 percent from a year earlier.

In an interview yesterday, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said prospects for more of these investments coming into the country had improved, following reports that the California Public Employees' Retirement System was planning to return to the Philippines.

"The prospects that Calpers would not only reverse its plan to pullout but also reinvest should shore up portfolio investments in the country," said Buenaventura.

Calpers' staff has been reported to be urging the giant US pension fund to reverse a February decision to pull roughly $15 million in stock holdings out of the Philippines.

Mango firms to tap new marts

By Christine A. Gaylican

LOCAL mango-producing companies are developing new export markets such as Europe, China and Canada following the maiden shipment of 200 to 300 metric tons of the fruit to the United States this month.

These companies include Marsman Drysdale Food Corp., Diamond Star Agro Products Inc., DHM Corp. and Hi-Las Marketing Corp. which have recently doubled efforts to penetrate the European market.

"We would have to tap these markets more aggressively. Right now we are delivering to Japan, Hong Kong, Australia and by this month to the United States," said Reynaldo Mangilit, Diamond Star senior vice president, in a press conference late Tuesday.

Hi-Las Marketing Corp. president Roberto Amores said Philippine mangoes have a good chance of penetrating these new markets as the governments are not too strict when it comes to yapor heat treatment and/or irradiation methods to kill pests, unlike the United States and Australia.

Successful trade negotiations between the two countries, however, resulted in the opening up of the two big markets to Philippine mangoes.

The US has allowed a trial shipment of 200 to 300 metric tons while Australia will take in one ton of mangoes.

With its pending shipment to the United States, the Philippines will try to overtake Mexico, which currently dominates the $200-million fresh mango market of the United States.

Republic Cement, Seacem report huge losses in 2001

By Elena R. Torrijos

TWO of the country's largest cement firms posted huge losses last year mainly as a result of setting aside "exceptional" provisions.

In a news statement, Republic Cement Corp. said its net loss deteriorated to P1.8 billion in 2001 from P420.9 million in 2000.

Southeast Asian Cement also reported that its net loss worsened to P943 million last year from P772 million the year before.

"Given the continuing decline in cement demand by approximately 5 percent for the first quarter this year, it has been projected by management that certain non-operating assets are unlikely to be commissioned for some years and, therefore, a prudent exceptional provision has been applied to the 2001 accounts in the amount of P1.565 billion. Had it not been for this provision, Republic would have reduced its net loss from P420.9 million to P245.9 million," Republic Cement president Juan Miguel Montinola said.

Seacem president Arlene de Guzman said Seacem's loss was largely a result of a P316-million provision to cover for doubtful accounts.

Both cement firms registered a strong improvement in their operating incomes last year because of the safeguard tariff imposed late last year.

Republic Cement said its operating profit rose 30 percent last year. The company earned a consolidated operating profit of P527 million from P405 million year-on-year.

The Department of Trade and Industry imposed in November a provisional tariff of P20.60 per bag of cement to stem the flow of cheap imports that local manufacturers had blamed for a drop in their market share.

Republic Cement and Seacem said they expected to perform better financially this year.

Republic Cement corporate information officer Renato Sunico said 2002 "has started off reasonably well, with better operating performance despite the downturn in the market and lower prices."

Seacem's De Guzman said: "As a result of the imposition of a temporary safeguards tariff in late 2001, Seacem was able to reduce ex-plant prices because of improved sales volumes. In view of these market conditions, results for the first quarter of 2002 have significantly improved."

First e-Bank seeks BSP, PDIC help to find a buyer

FIRST e-Bank, a publicly listed thrift bank controlled by Metro Pacific Corp., has asked the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. to help it find a buyer.

"First e-Bank has approached us to see what incentives the PDIC, as well as the BSP, can provide. For instance, we can extend financial assistance to the acquiring bank," PDIC president Norberto Nazareno said in an interview yesterday.

He stressed, however, that the bank did not need a "white knight," unlike other lenders that normally approach the central bank or PDIC for assistance.

A banking source said Metro Pacific had been trying to sell First e-Bank over the last four years so it could liquidate some of its investments in non-core businesses.

Metro Pacific has been having problems financing its exposure in the Fort Bonifacio property development project.

Two months ago, the central bank said First e-Bank, formerly known as PDCP Bank, was preparing to merge with another bank that agreed to infuse some P2.3 billion in new capital.

Nazareno, however, denied the bank had become a problem.

"The bank has its share of problems, but it is still being supported by Metro Pacific, and the assistance they want is not different to what other banks have availed of," he said. ***Clarissa S. Batino***

Espiritu group asks foreign directors of UOB to resign

FILIPINO directors of United Overseas Bank Philippines have asked their Singaporean counterparts to resign or face criminal charges for allegedly violating the country's anti-dummy and banking laws.

These directors belong to a group of shareholders that, together with the son of former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu and fast-food chain operator Antonio Tan Caktiong, have filed a case with the Manila regional trial court to regain control of UOB Philippines.

"The Singaporeans appear to have violated our anti-dummy laws, and this must be fully investigated to set the records straight," Francis Lim, counsel of both Espiritu and Tan Caktiong, said.

"If (the Singaporeans) are guilty, they must also be punished to the full extent of our laws, no more no less," he warned.

UOB Philippines currently has six Singaporeans sitting on its board.

UOB Philippines directors Alfonso Reyno Jr., Victor Lazatin, Avelino Sebastian and Ferdinand Domingo are claiming that Singapore-based United Overseas Bank Ltd. has been using Manta Ray Holdings Corp. of businessman Ernest Tanchi as a "dummy" to hold an additional 7 percent of UOB Philippines.

They said that through two other corporations also controlled by Tanchi, UOB had acquired UOB Philippines' real and other property owned or acquired.

"In this case, UOB, through its dummies, circumvented laws limiting the ownership of foreign entities in banks and the prohibition against aliens from owning real estate in the Philippines," they said in a case they filed against UOB.

The Constitution bars foreigners from owning more than 40 percent of a property in the Philippines.

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2002

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS*Friday*

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

TALE OF TWO AD CAMPAIGNS

One aims for joy; the other pushes concern for family

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

FOR many Filipino families, eating out in a restaurant is a weekend tradition and with 70 million Filipinos, it is a lucrative market for both local and foreign fast-food chains.

Since the tradition is mostly carried by those with little kids, the choice of the place usually is narrowed down to two—Jollibee or McDonald's.

The competition of the two is present in all facets of its operations—the menu, the locations, the come-ons, the service and of course, the advertising campaigns. The campaigns over the past 20 years have understandably focused on the family but recently, the fast-food giants have decided to take a different route to get their share of the market through advertising.

'Bee Happy'

Fast-food giant Jollibee Corp. has always used happy faces of friends or family members coming together to enjoy a hamburger, spaghetti or chickenjoy, its best seller, in its advertising campaigns.

The endearing image has been used since the first Jollibee branch opened, so why not go all out and own the values of happiness to define the network that is going on its 25th year of operations?

Jollibee, thus, launched the "Bee Happy" marketing campaign last Jan. 6 to put into focus the fast-food firm's efforts to make customers happy through excellent customer service, trademark "langhap sarap" food and value-for-money meals.

"We are telling customers that we promise them happiness every time they come to our stores," explains Gina B. Navarrete, Jollibee's former vice president for marketing and now general manager of Greenwich Pizza.

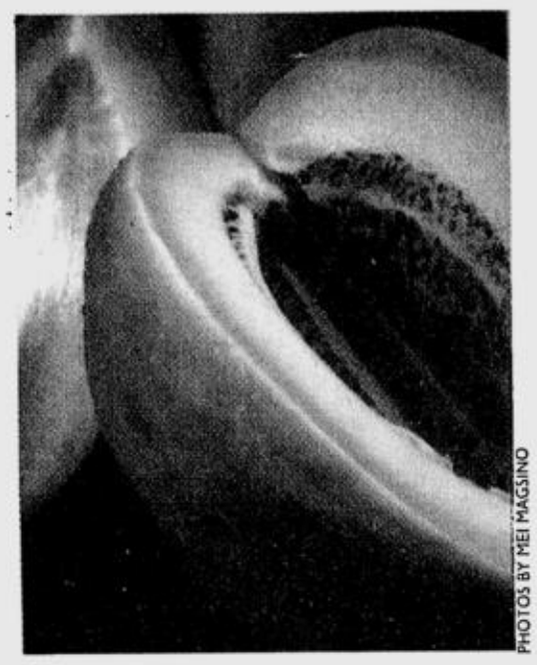
The television and print advertising campaigns were precisely aired last Jan. 6 to literally start the year with a bang. The giant billboards showing happy faces of children, parents, teenagers and *barkadas* were put up at a time when advertising spending is traditionally low.

"We decided against launching the campaign during the fourth quarter of the year because of the clutter, although most of the work was already done about September or October last year," Navarrete explains in an interview with Business Friday.

Jollibee tapped Basic Advertising to conceptualize the marketing campaign that was actually inspired by the daily experience of the more than one million customers who flock Jollibee's 420 stores nationwide.

"We have always concentrated on family bonding with our advertising but this time we decided to do something a little different," Navarrete says.

ONE/ C6



PHOTOS BY MEI MAGSINO

HONEYDEW melons are tender and juicy

Hobby turns into a legacy of good fruits

By Mei Magsino,
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

MAMBURAO, Occidental Mindoro—Have you ever seen or tasted an eight-kilo seedless watermelon? How about a 3.5-kilo honeydew?

For most of us, these sweet exotic fruits are served only in five-star hotels and restaurants in Metro Manila and can be bought only from classy malls with expensive price tags. But for the people of Mamburao, these melons are just a ride away to the Jopson Aqua Livestock Integrated Resources Inc. (Jaliri) farms in Barangay Tayamaan here.

What started as a hobby on honeydew melon culture in 1993 turned into a legacy of fruit goodness said to be found only in Mamburao.

Jaliri farm manager Rodolfo Plopiño said the secret is in the climate, the fresh spring water and the rich soil of the farm that go well with the organic fertilizer from the nearby dairy farm.

His wife, Maria Corazon Jopson-Plopiño, whose father, Hernan, and brother, Edgar, were the first to cultivate the 300-hectare multi-investment farm in 1965, said the seeds they got from Taiwan and Japan in 1993 produced only 1.5 kilos per fruit.

Jaliri Farms was able to double that. Here, each honeydew melon and each golden prize melon weighs at least 2.5 kilos, the biggest tips the scale at 3.5 kilos. Seedless watermelons weigh a maximum of 19 kilos.

Now supplying melons to Makro, S & R, Landmark, Rustan's, and Shopwise malls, Jaliri was also able to export its melons to Taiwan.

The melons have also reached the plates of the rich and famous as most local government officials of the province have given the President, the senators, congressmen and businessmen sweet melons as gifts.

Jopson farm

In 1965, Maria Corazon's father took Edgar to the island-province of Mindoro. There they rented a room in Mamburao, the province's capital town, and moved around only in jeepneys and *karetelas*, and sometimes rented a pumpboat to go to the other towns and barrios.

It was on this trip that their host took the Jopsons to see a piece of land for sale in what is now Barangay Tayamaan. Father and son were impressed by what they saw. The land abounds with animal life—deer, wild boar, monkeys and birds.

It was Edgar who convinced his father to buy the land. Hernan is known in the business community as the pioneer of the supermarket business. He was the first to put up the country's first supermarket, the Jopson Supermarket, which operated from 1947 to 1989.

"Coming here was an adventure for all of us," Maria Corazon said.

"Since there was no electricity yet, we had candles at night. And since we didn't have artesian wells at that time, we bathed in the river. Here, we learned to cook our food over wood fire," she added.

Along with her eight siblings, they visited the farm during summer vacations.

"American troops used to have war games here, when they trained for jungle survival back in the '70s when the Vietnam War was still on," she recalled.

Multi-investment

When the Jopsons stopped their supermarket operation in 1989, the 300-hectare land, which used to be planted to coconuts, was converted

HOBBY/ C2

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Ranger Trekker 4x2	805,000	160,000		19,000
Ranger XLT 4x4	980,000	200,000		22,000
Ranger SVT 4x4	1,035,000	220,000		23,000
Explorer Sport Trac 4x4	1,550,000	400,000		34,000
F-150 SuperCrew (monotone)	1,599,000	400,000		35,000
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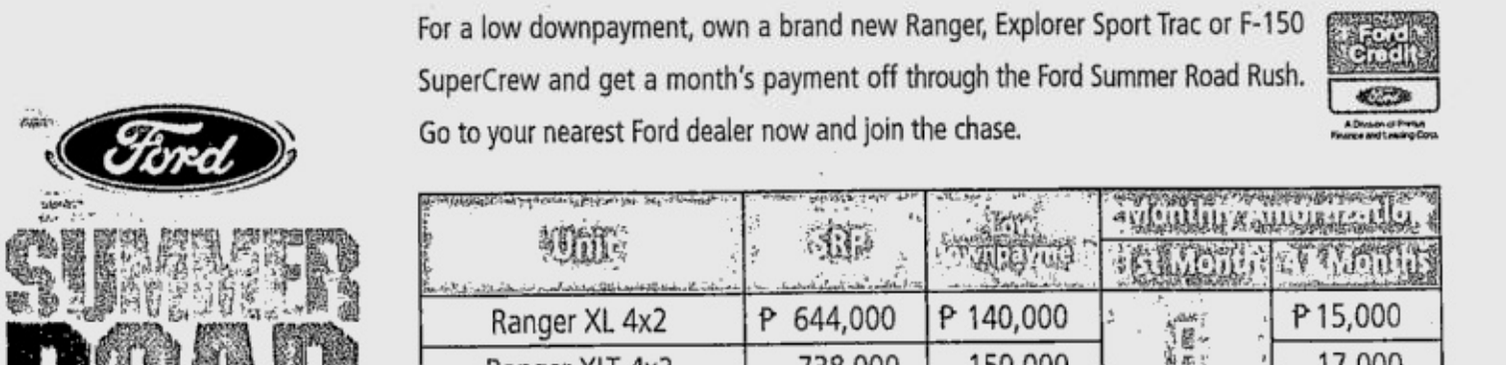

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Per DTI-NCR permit # 1604 series of 2002

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Ford EDSA, 29 EDSA, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila; Trunk Lines 726-7181 to 85, Fax No. 723-0311
Ford Libis, 186 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Bagumbayan, Libis, Quezon City; Trunk Line 637-2044, Fax No. 637-6008
Ford Makati, 2287 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City 1231; Trunk Line 818-5555, Fax No. 815-0513
Ford Quezon Avenue, Quezon Avenue corner Apo Street, Quezon City; Tel nos. 732-3543 / 732-3545, Fax No. 741-3456
Ford Cabanatuan, Mabini-Maharlika Highway, Sumacab-Este, Cabanatuan City; Tel No. (044) 464-0111, Fax No. (044) 600-4200
Ford Pampanga, San Fernando - Olongapo Highway, City of San Fernando, Pampanga, Trunk Line (045) 961-2888, Fax Nos. (045) 963-5205 / 961-2277
Ford Bacolod, Araneta St., Barangay Singcang, Bacolod City; Telefax No.: (034) 434-2877
Ford Cebu, Magallanes cor. P. Burgos St., Cebu City 6000; Trunk Line (032) 253-0453, Fax No. (032) 253-0479
Ford Davao, Km. 6, Lanang, Davao City; Tel No. (082) 234-1111, Fax No. (082) 234-2222

Firm makes comeback sans its 'friendly Electrolux man'

By Michelle V. Remo

WHAT do you remember if you hear the commercial jingle, "I'm gonna knock on your door, ring on your bell, tap on your windows, too . . ."

For sure, it would be Electrolux, the firm that sells vacuum cleaners and other household gadgets. The Swedish firm which started operations in the country in 1980 is making a comeback after its "knock on your door" ad campaign disappeared from the airwaves a few years ago.

While its campaign may have irritated some, it did succeed in creating a household name for Electrolux.

Electrolux practically started the door-to-door selling of appliances in the '80s. It armed itself with salespersons lugging the heavy cleaners who knocked on doors, convincing residents to allow them to give a demo of their ware.

But suddenly the ubiquitous sales people disappeared.

They made a brief comeback in the '90s with an ad campaign. Its direct selling business was renamed Lux. But in 1998, it divested from Lux.

In 1998 Electrolux stopped selling its products in the Philippines. It continued in other countries but used retail channels like department stores. Selling agents were used minimally.

Recently, however, Electrolux decided to come back to the Philippines as part of its worldwide expansion.

Electrolux Philippines Inc. was established last year and is launching the Electrolux brand for the first time in mass retail stores.

Last April 23, it inaugurated its Manila office and is launching its white line brands with Electrolux and White Westinghouse as their carrier brands.

White Westinghouse used to be licensed to Phi-lacor, a local company.

MARKETING STRATEGY

Electrolux Manila president Vichai Lorattawoult said that included in the short-term goal of entering the Philippine market is to be a leader in the appliance business within three years.

He said that the Philippine market is promising, given its "strategic geographical location" and "growing market."

This time however, there will be no more salesmen knocking on consumers' doors. Electrolux products will instead be on display windows in popular appliance stores.

Although the brand name became popular because of its ad about the door-to-door salesmen, Vichai said the sales of Electrolux products from direct selling accounted for only 0.5 percent of its total sales.

He explained that though Electrolux had been known in the Philippines through direct selling, it was not so in other countries. He said that most Electrolux products around the globe have been distributed through retail stores, and that is what Electrolux will be doing here in the Philippines.

The AB Lux in Stockholm was established in 1901. The company was producing the Lux lamp for household lighting.

AB Lux collaborated with Axel Wenner-Gren in 1912. The latter set up a sales company that took care of the distribution of the products. The method used by the company for distributing its products was home distribution. This means salespersons would knock on the doors of homeowners and would arrange demonstration schedules with housewives during a time when the husbands, who provided for the family financially, were there to approve of the purchase.

Electromekaniska AB, also a producer of household equipment, meanwhile, was set up in Stockholm in 1910. Its merger with Lux in 1919 gave way to the birth of Electrolux.

Asked why Electrolux had to shift from direct selling to retail-stores distribution in marketing its products in the Philippines, Vichai said, "If you look at the global market, mass distribution through stores is mainstream." The company believes that retail-stores selling is far more effective.

Vichai also said that compared with direct selling, distribution through retail stores is cheaper.

Over the years, Electrolux has become bigger through acquisitions. The company has bought and integrated more than 400 companies.

Big appliance names such as Kelvinator, White Westinghouse and Frigidaire became part of the Electrolux family when the company acquired White Consolidated Inc. in 1986.

Acquisitions such as these have made Electrolux a "world leader" in the appliance business.

In 1925, it acquired Arctic, which makes refrigerators.

In 1948, Electrolux bought Bohus Mekaniska Verkstads, which makes industrial washing machines.

In 1979, it acquired Tappan in Mansfield, Ohio, which increased the company's share in the household appliances and kitchen equipment.

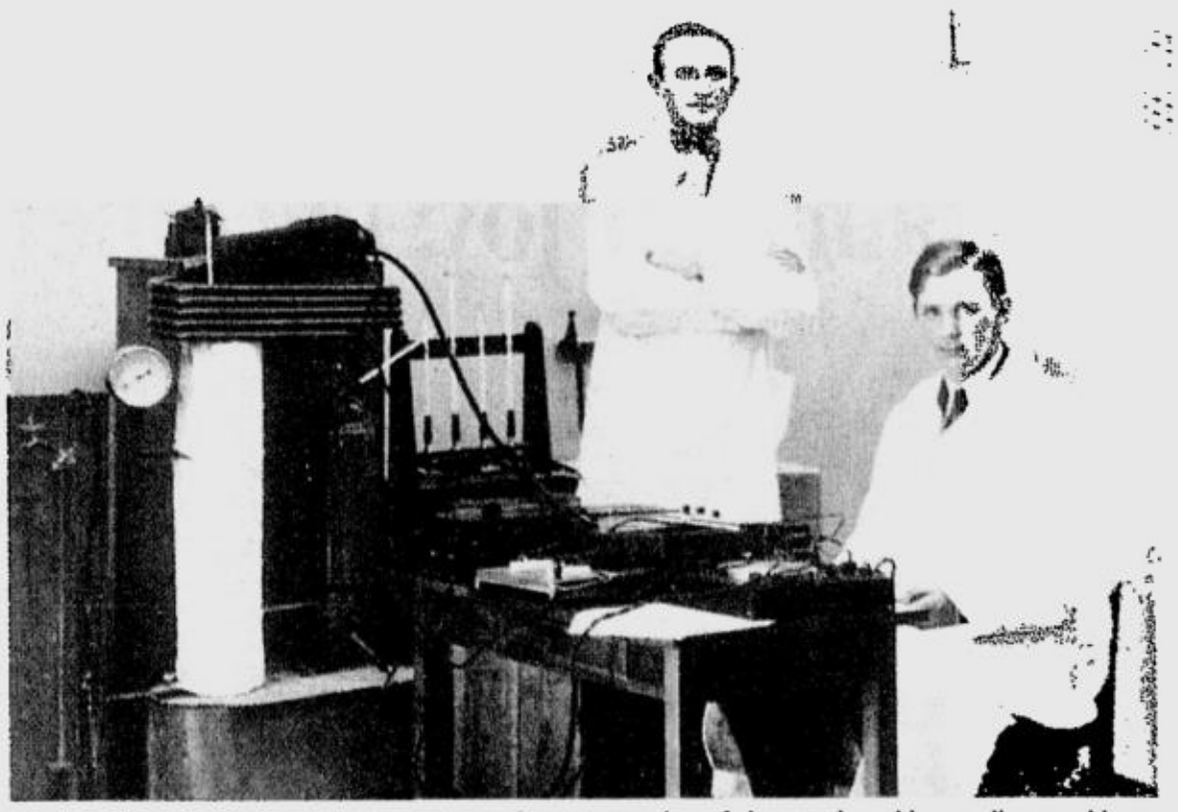
The names and brands of the acquired companies were retained which is why consumers are not aware that their appliances are owned by Electrolux, says Electrolux East Asia president Fredrik Ramen.

Electrolux explains that the company does not change a product name because "a strong brand name is one of the most valuable assets a company can have."

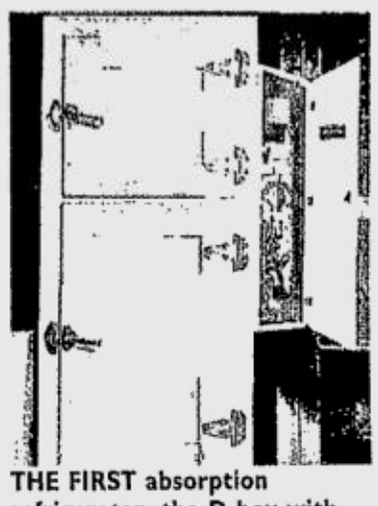
With its acquisitions, Electrolux product lines range from household appliances to outdoor and professional equipment.

The Electrolux Group says it is the "world's leading company in appliance, selling 55 million products in more than 160 countries around the world annually."

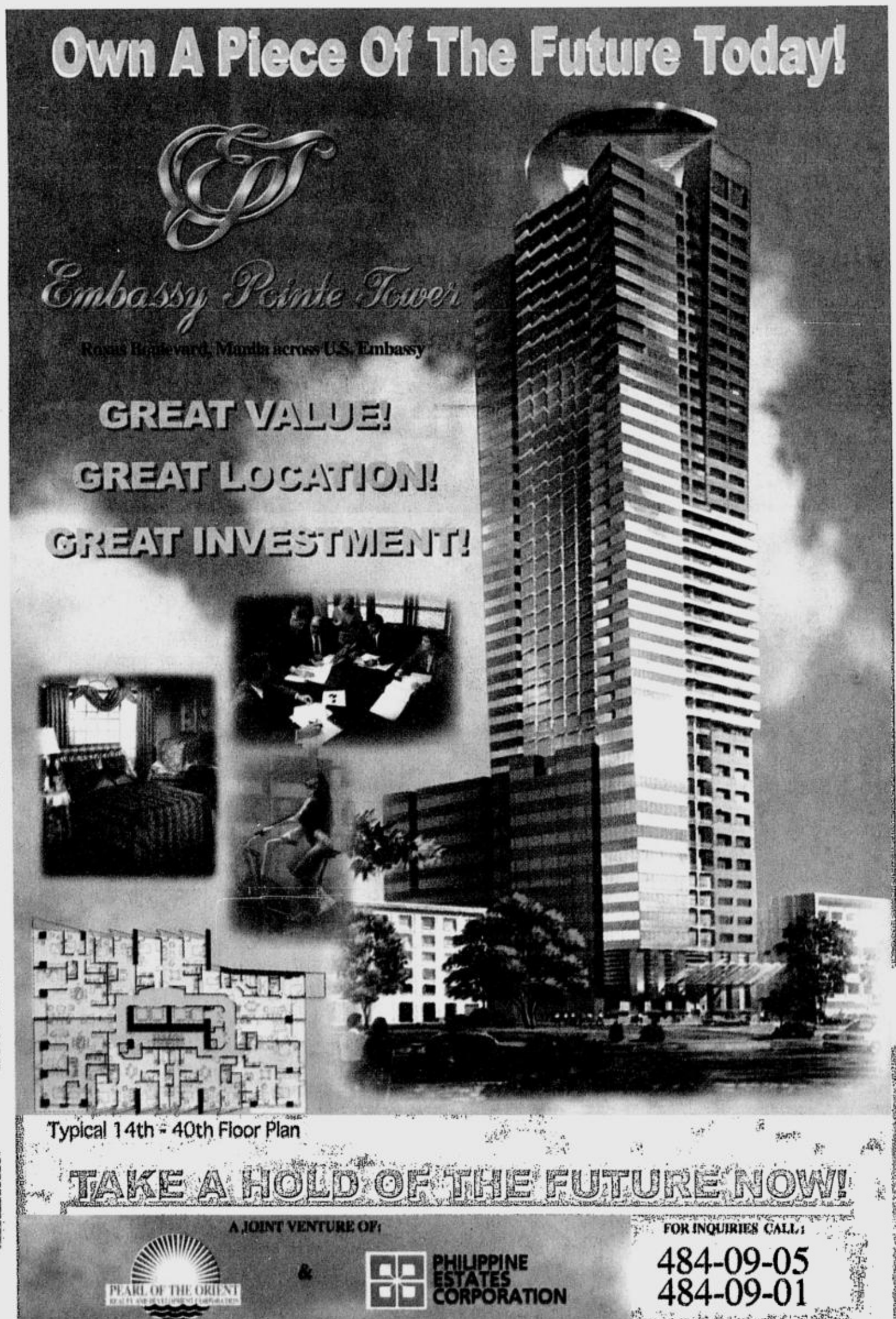
Currently, Electrolux is in an expansion mode, and this is what prods it to have an office here in Manila and re-introduce its products, for the first time through retail-stores selling.



BALTZAR van Platen and Carl Munters at the presentation of the epoch-making cooling machine in 1922. The machine paved the way for the development of the refrigerator.



THE FIRST absorption refrigerator, the D-box with the cooling unit and fitting built into a "hump."



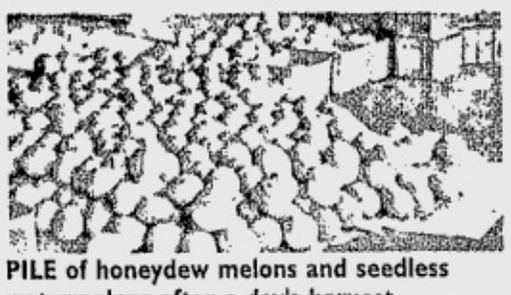
Hobby turns . . .

From page C1

into a multi-investment farm.

"When the supermarket was sold, we came here to develop this farm," Maria Corazon said.

The farm also had the capacity for rice and corn propagation. But when the honeydew melon bore better and sweeter fruits, the Jopsons prioritized the melons.



PILE of honeydew melons and seedless watermelons after a day's harvest.

Initially, 3,000 square meters of land were used to propagate the melons.

Romeo Sapin, Maria Corazon's brother-in-law, who was trained by the Taiwanese, was the first to plant the melons.

The first melons planted had 30-40 percent mortality rate. That time, the typhoons frequented the island.

But the agri-business persisted until Jaliri became the leader in the fruit industry. It also began the seedless watermelon production.

Now, four hectares of land are devoted to honey dew melon production while 20 hectares are planted with seedless watermelons. Here, giant seedless watermelons are still exported by dealers who come to buy Jaliri's produce. Seedless watermelon has reached over 300 tons in export every season.

"Before, only the Taiwanese were able to propagate honeydew melons and seedless watermelons," Plopiño said.

"We used to get our seeds from Taiwan and Japan. Now, we produce better fruits."

Melon planting starts in September, at the end of the rainy season, and harvesting is during Christmas.

"Here, every agribusiness is connected to another business," Plopiño said. "The organic fertilizer we use for the melon farm is from the cow manure of our dairy farm. At the *acacia* plantation, the *acacia* seeds, which are high in protein, are used as feeds for the cows. Our irrigation system here is also used for the prawn culture."

The island province's climate, which is distinct wet and dry, has also helped in the melon propagation.

Spring water is also used in the Jaliri house set on a top of the hill overlooking the crocodile hill and the Mindoro Strait beyond. It is also used in the family's swimming pool.

Development

"Since the Calabarzon project, the development has been blessed to those provinces only. We thought there was nothing left for Occidental Mindoro," Maria Corazon said. "We wanted to prove that we have our own identity, that Mamburao town in Occidental Mindoro has a memorable taste experience that's worth returning to. In our own small way, somehow the government can send even a trickle of development in our province."

Known for the distinct sweetness of the honeydew and golden prize melons, and the giant seedless watermelons, Jaliri farm has been imitated by more and more farms from other provinces.

When the Asian currency crisis started in 1998, exports declined.

"That's when we decided to cater directly to homes," Maria Corazon said.

Farmgate prices of the melon range from P45 to P50 per kilo.

"You have to exercise good timing and adopt a viable sales strategy at all times," Plopiño said, "That way, you won't be hit hard when crisis strikes."

In the fruit industry, Jaliri melons have to compete with lesser quality melons with lower price.

Most often, hotels and restaurants prefer the cheaper but bland-tasting melons—sacrificing quality for quantity.

"That's why when you tasted bland honeydew melons in hotels, don't blame us. That's not ours," Maria Corazon said.

Resort

The 300-hectare farm is also a resort where visitors get a hands-on farm experience and hike on the mountains.

At the farm front, where the ice plant is located, guests can have a tour of the facility.

Kumatog and Crocodile mountains that still abound with monkeys, wild *labuyo* chicken, falcons, eagles, and *bayawak* lizards.

Below the Crocodile mountain is a 2.5-kilometer stretch of white sand. At the beach, the clear water is still knee-deep at a kilometer's walk. The farm has two rivers—the Mamburao and Tugilan—connected to the sea where guests can get on a boat, do some fishing and sail on to the sea.

At the prawn farms, guests can join the prawn feeding. Below the hill, where the family house is located, is the dairy farm where visitors can get a first-hand experience at cow branding.

Here, guests can also go horseback riding, watch the cross-pollination of crops and harvest honeydew melons, golden prize melons and seedless watermelons.

At the back of the farm is a Mangyan settlement where 30 families live on a four-hectare land and where a hectare is cultivated for rice planting.

According to Maria Corazon, the concept to develop the farm into a full-scale multi-investment resort is still in the planning stage. "For now, we just enjoy nature with our family, friends and guests."

Taxation of cooperatives

By Ronald V. Bernas
SGV & CO

TAX-FILES

COOPERATIVES play an important role in the social and economic development of countries. Cooperatives are active participants in every type of economy and represent almost all sectors. Cooperativism has even been described as the largest socio-economic movement in the world.

Here in the Philippines, there are many cooperatives that provide services to Filipinos who otherwise would not be able to access these services (agricultural support, power generation and distribution, credit and financing, etc.) from the government.

In recognition of the importance of cooperatives, it is the government's policy "to foster the creation and growth of cooperatives as a practical vehicle for promoting self-reliance and harnessing people power toward the attainment of economic development and social justice." (Article 2, Cooperative Code of the Philippines).

In accordance with the government's policy to foster the growth and creation of cooperatives, Sections 61 and 62 of the Cooperative Code provide for certain tax exemptions.

It has been more than 10 years since the enactment of the Cooperative Code and there have already been amendments to the law and applicable rules and regulations with respect to the taxation of cooperatives.

In light of the amendments, the Bureau of Internal Revenue came out with Revenue Regulations No. 20-2001 (dated Nov. 12, 2001) in order to clarify the tax treatment of cooperatives under Sections 61 and 62 of the Cooperative Code.

Under Section 2(a) of Revenue Regulations No. 20-2001, a cooperative is defined as "a cooperative duly registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) or whose registration has been confirmed by the latter, including primary, secondary or tertiary cooperatives."

All types of cooperatives are required to register with the Bureau of Internal Revenue. For tax purposes, cooperatives can be classified into two categories:

(a) Cooperatives that transact business with members only or cooperatives which transact business with members and non-members whose accumulated reserves and undivided savings are not more than P10 million; and

(b) Cooperatives which transact business with members and non-members whose accumulated reserves and undivided savings are more than P10 million.

Cooperatives with a maximum savings of P10 million shall be exempt from paying the following taxes for which they are directly liable:

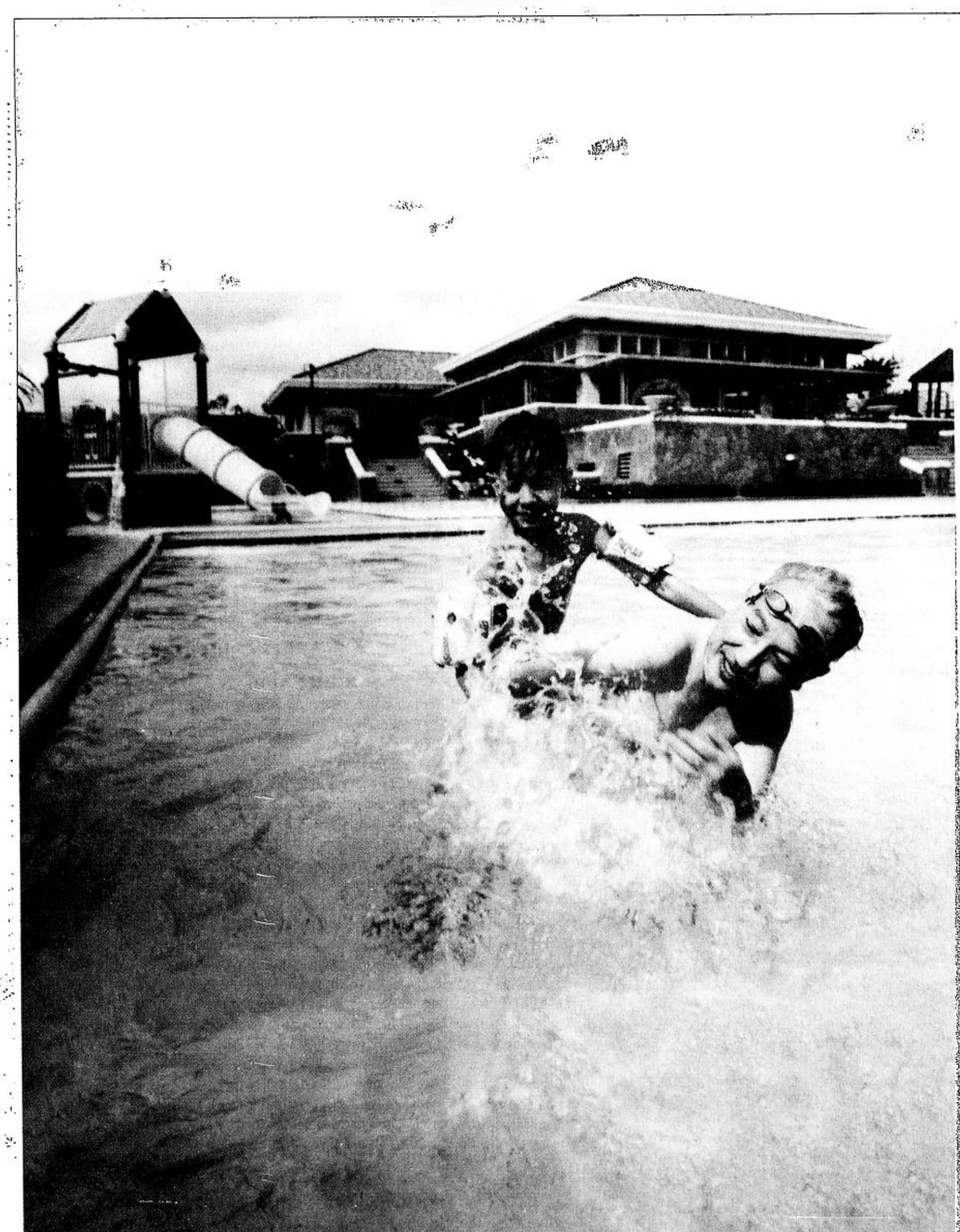
(a) Income Tax on income from operations;

(b) VAT under Section 109 pars. (r), (s), (t) and (u) of the Tax Code;

(c) 3-percent Percentage Tax under Section 116 of the Tax Code;

(d) Donor's Tax on donations

TAXATION/ C6



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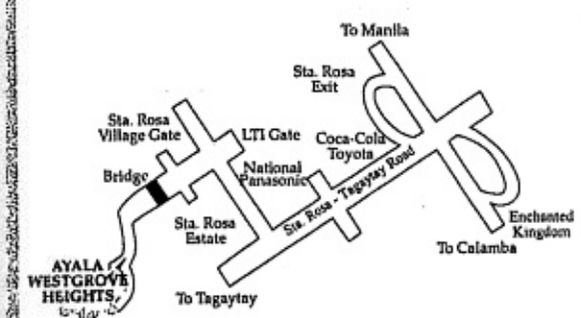

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Congratulations!

My most cordial greetings to the year 2002 graduating students of the AMA Computer University.

The twenty-first century is the era of technology. Economic prosperity is determined more and more by the ability of a nation to harness the intellectual resources of its people. In the attainment of our common vision of economic progress and stability, our people, especially the youth, are called upon to lead the country by equipping themselves with the skills necessary for the advancement of our society.

While we continue to strengthen the foundation of our economy by ensuring the accessibility of basic needs and services, it is in broadening our technological capability that we shall be able to translate our investments into sustainable gains and social transformation.

I call upon all the members of the graduating class to take into their hearts and mind the relevance of the role that they will play as responsible members of our society. As you graduate from this institution, we expect you to be active stakeholders in the country's development.

I also call upon the administration and faculty of the AMA Computer University to continue their dedication to academic excellence and the molding of our youth into responsible achievers and leaders. Let us work together in providing quality education and youth development as a noble investment in the nation's future.

Mabuhay ang mga nagsipagtapos sa AMA Computer University!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

My warmest felicitations to the AMA Computer University on the occasion of its 18th Commencement Exercises on May 3, 2002.

With the global trend towards computerization, former auditor general Amable R. Aguiluz V founded the AMA Institute of Computer Studies in 1980, with a pioneering batch of 13 students. Noticeable indeed is the great rise of the student population over the years. AMA, acclaimed as the first institution of learning to offer a comprehensive curriculum for the country's future computer scientists, was granted full university status by the year 1995. This campus houses sports facilities and the latest state-of-the-art equipment in keeping with its global mission and to offer the students the best training.

I call upon the graduates to utilize the talents and skills they acquired from this institution and help propel our country towards progress and sustained economic growth.

In this Age of Modern Technology, AMA Computer University is beset with the challenging task of responding to the needs of the changing times. Therefore, you must develop programs that would adapt to the continuous stream of new cutting edge technologies and scientific discoveries.

I hope that this occasion would inspire the graduates towards excellence as they pursue their respective fields of study, as this will certainly contribute to the betterment of the nation in the future.

MABUHAY KAYONG LAHAT!

TEOFISTO T. GUINGONA, JR.
Vice-President
Republic
of the Philippines

My warmest congratulations to the Batch 2002 Graduates of the AMA Computer University on its 18th Commencement Exercises at the Araneta Coliseum on May 3, 2002.

This, indeed, is the start, the "commencement" of the most challenging phase in your lives as the country's new IT professionals. From this day on, you become part of a highly dynamic and fiercely competitive global market.

In the face of the challenges that lay ahead, I am confident nonetheless that the knowledge, skills and attitude that you have gained from your Alma Mater will serve you in good stead. So as you move on to greater heights in your chosen field, may you not forget your mentors who, together with your parents, have equipped you for a productive life and supported your education in ways more than one.

I enjoin you all therefore to make good use of your competitive edge as IT professionals, moreso as products of your Alma Mater, in this information-driven age. Certainly, your success is the success of the Filipino.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

FRANKLIN M. DRILON
President
Senate of the Philippines

Information technology has revolutionized the way education is delivered all over the world this past decade. The AMA Education System, through the leadership of Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V, has been at the forefront of this revolution in the Philippines since its founding in the early 80s. As the leader of computer education in Asia, AMA has since then supplied the global market with competent ICT professionals.

Globalization permeates every aspect of human life in the 21st century. As the global community seemingly grows smaller through instantaneous communication and sharing of information, the role of computers grows bigger in the burgeoning knowledge economy. To help our country meet the challenges of globalization, AMA keeps fortifying its computer education program by continuously expanding its physical base of operations, upgrading its curriculum, and upgrading its intellectual resources.

The graduates of 2002 are lucky for they witnessed the transformation of AMA from a college to a university. This means that the education they received is as good as if not better than what they could have acquired from other top schools in the country. The added value, of course, is that ICT graduates are the most marketable professionals in the world these days.

Best wishes to you, 2002 graduates, who will conquer the world!

AMABLE C. AGUILUZ IX
President
AMA Education System

KARIM L. BANGCOLA
Executive Vice-President
AMA Education System

As the world shrinks, we at AMAES continue to expand. Since its founding, AMA has graduated more than 140,000 internationally certified IT professionals who are now employed in top companies all over the world. We are the only school system in Asia that has an annual enrolment of 150,000 and 200 campuses in the Philippines and other parts of the world.

Information technology has brought societies of the global knowledge economy closer to each other, blurring geographic divisions in a way humanity has never known before. Yet AMA pursues its plans of physical expansion in order to establish its base of operations in various parts of the globe. In this way, AMA education becomes more unique as we do not have to rely on second-hand certifications from the more established ICT institutions but nurture direct partnerships with them. This provides all graduates of AMA the edge.

All of you can find employment anywhere in the world. Our international reputation as a source of ICT manpower was established through the pioneering efforts of your alma mater. This reputation endures as we remain steadfast in our commitment to provide quality education.

We provide what the Filipino youth deserve. Congratulations to the class of 2002! You all have a bright future ahead of you.

18th Commencement Program

Friday, 3 May 2002, 8am Araneta Coliseum, Quezon City

PROCESSIONAL	
Entrance of Colors	AMA Computer University Cadets
Philippine National Anthem	AMA Computer University Chorale
Invocation	**Rev. Fr. Isabelo San Luis, SVD**
AMA Hymn	The Company
Welcome Address	**Amable C. Aguiluz IX** *President, AMA Education System*
Graduation Message	**Hon. Franklin M. Drilon** President, Senate of the Philippines
Graduation Message	**Dr. Donald B. Ruthenberg** *President, American League of Colleges and Universities*
President's Message	**Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V** *University President*
Presentation of Graduates	**Dr. Socorro M. Rodriguez** *Vice President for Academic Affairs*
Conferment of Degrees	**Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V**
Presentation of Diplomas	
Introduction of Keynote Speaker	**Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V**
Keynote Address	**Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo** *President, Republic of the Philippines*
Presentation of Academic Honors and Awards	**Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V**
Valedictory Address	**Jesse S. Liamzon** *Bachelor of Science in Information Technology* *Magna Cum Laude, AMA Makati*
Pledge of Loyalty	**Gilbert V. Merto** *Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering* *Magna Cum Laude, AMA Quezon City*
Introduction to AMA Alumni Association	**Alejandro San Gil Manalac** *Assistant Vice President, Moldex Realty Incorporated* *B.S. Computer Science, Batch '88*
Graduation Song	AMA Computer University Choir and The Company
AMA Computer University March	AMA Computer University Choir
Exit of Colors	AMA Computer University Cadets

Proceedings will be hosted by Mr. Mari Kaimo, with Ms. Jamie Rivera of Miss Saigon (London) fame, The Company and Whiplash providing entertainment.

More Than 4,000
New Graduates Led By AMA's Best!

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

(Quezon City) Merto, Gilbert V. • *(Makati)* Liamzon, Jesse S. • Evangelista, Bonnalyn S. • Calo, Marhea S. • Aquino, Riza R. • Aquino, Jocelyn B. • Ochoa, Roanne B. • Sandicho, Sheila Rose V. • Solmoro, Kriztine Mae B. • Ilao, Edwin P. • *(East Rizal)* Espino, Steve I. • Olaya, Melona • Rivera, Randell L. • Paris, Alvin H. • Serafin, Maria Luisa G. • *(Caloocan)* Martin, Kathleen P. • *(Fairview)* Galeos, Alain Geoffrey B.

CUM LAUDE

(Quezon City) Ongkho, Michelle Loraine S. • Cabangon, Kathleen Anne B. • Dela Cruz, Neil G. • Dumaplin, Ronillo C. • Mejia, Mariflor D. • Palacios, Reylon Joseph H. • Panganiban, Anna Sheryl R. • Rocili, Sheila Mar B. • Aldos, Anette A. • Almoite, Errol Jann R. • Arenas, Raquel C. • Azada, Analyn V. • Brion, Lawrence Runel I. • Caridad, Herbert C. • Ceria, Joan V. II • Custodio, Ma. Kimberly Anne D. • Ijiran, Rosalyn J. • Jose, Sweet Vanessa T. • Makayan, Jaime T. • Manalo, Jocelyn R. • Reyes, Cherie Christian C. • Wee, Aldwin V. • Fermin, Janit A. • Sadiaza, Ma. Charisma C. • Valley, Ma. Fatima R. • Mallari, Pamela Jean J. • *(Makati)* Rodelas, Kristine M. • Mulles, Nino Allan E. • Delos Santos, Nyra G. • Francisco, Jose Romualdo F. • Almarez, Felomena R. • *(East Rizal)* Laforteza, Joan F. • Tormes, Melinda • Cebu, Carolyn G. • Prochina, Erlwynn Q. • Fondales, Gina S. • Ison, Mary Jane B. • Tomas, Karen Dolly T. • Brillo, Sheryl C. • Viesca, Janice Ann • Pedrigal, Antonette • Patag, Rona Paula • Gertes, Joevan S. • Aseron, Loralyn B. • Valenzuela, Geneveve V. • Maddalora, Amy Lyn V. • Macatangay, Joey A. • Manzano, Johnna F. • Septimo, Rhea May B. • Aquino, Charina Joy A. • Belo, Gemn Harvhey B. • Fernando, Analie D. • *(Binan)* Natividad, Karen K. • Almarinez, Fortunato K. • Galicia, Rennor II F. • Liwanag, Kelly Revlin R. • Tablan, Joseph J. • Alinan, Allan M. • Bantatua, Francis Albert B. • *(Caloocan)* Legaspi, Shirley I. • Lim, Erlyn Julee Ann T. • Alegre, Abigael P. • Chua, Catherine M. • Clavel, Neil S. • Mabansag, Odessa B. • Quiambao, Ma. Eliza V. • Teng, Randy T. • Wong, Ryan Y. • Lim, Eric Goldman C. • *(Cavite)* Llamado, Michelle B. • De Salit, Jenalyn A. • Revenque, Arlene E. • Sioson, Denver F. • Amihan, Shielilo Jose P. • *(Fairview)* Cantada, Julie Anne S. • Faral, Ma. Jizzle A. • Galve, Jasmin Lea D. • Gonzales, Neneth C. • Lota, Amabelle S. • Retiro, Vincent Anthony A. • Villafuerte, Kathleen D. • Agustin, Michael E. • Bontigao, Karen G. • De Leon, John Jay C. • Diaz, Felle Aime Veneranda L. • Manalili, Mary Anne C. • Mendoza, Francisco, C. • Ongonion, Emy E. • Bersola, Sheryl Lou Christine E. • *(Parañaque)* Rosas, Melody Z. • Ralleta, Christine T. • Caseles, Ryan T. • Jamisola, Jonas Wilfred S. • Isay, Jeffrey O. • *(Sta. Mesa)* Lao, Riah Jasmin S. • Alcaraz, Joan • Moya, Darlene Leslie • Pesigan, Mark Paolo

WITH HIGHEST HONORS (Graduate School)

(Quezon City) Abat, Christopher I. • Amaro, Ann Leonor M. • Andres, Eliza R. • Garcia, Edison U. • Lazaro, Onofre R. • Marcelo, Ferdinand R. • Ortha, Kathryn Grace O. • Santos, Alex A. • Tan, Frederick G. • Nuesca, Jethro R. • Rubio, Marian Epiphany F. • Garma, Evelina M.

New AMAers!

(ey'em•eryers)

2002 BATCH Creating NewKnowledge in the Age of Global Education

The [illegible] Strategy [illegible] new skills/competencies that will [illegible] migration/deliver [illegible] and [illegible] AMA Computer University is once more at the forefront leading in the creation of new knowledge and preparing the young who will eventually serve as the backbone of this. The New World Order.

ESTER A. GARCIA
Chairperson
Commission on
Higher Education

Our congratulations to the SY 2001-2002 graduates of AMA University, Quezon City.

The new economy has caused the emergence of new skills and competencies in the world market, increasing the need for skilled and educated manpower. The global environment needs graduates who are adequately educated and trained to form part of the workforce who can adapt to rapid technological changes in the work environment.

We hope that your alma mater has prepared you for greater involvement in the workplace by providing the education and training necessary to give you a competitive edge in the work environment. As you embark on a new undertaking, may you shine among the group of empowered and globally competitive Filipinos who imbibe good values and proper work ethics.

We pray that you may have the courage and strength to pursue your goals and be successful in all your undertakings.

Mabuhay!

DR. AMABLE R. AGUILUZ V
Founder & Chairman
AMA Education System
University President

The information revolution has been exerting extreme pressure on traditional institutions of learning these past few years. All over the world, information technology keeps reshaping not only old structures of education but also the very relations between teachers and students. This trend will continue until the establishment of a global university.

As computers become more and more indispensable to daily living in any society, the demand for ICT professionals grow proportionately. The role of schools today is to prepare children to a world that has yet to be created, for jobs yet to be invented, and for technologies yet undreamed. This is exactly what AMA has been doing for the past decade.

As you enter the portals of professional practice as computer experts, you will realize what your Alma Mater has bequeathed to you - quality education and global knowledge that become more valuable as your career moves upward.

We take pride in having you with us as students. In due time, you will look back at your entire learning experience at AMA as a priceless treasure your parents have invested in. We have prepared you to lead productive and prosperous lives. Let the skills and knowledge you acquired from Asia's leader in computer education help you, your family, and Philippine society improve human conditions.

ERNESTO A. RIOVEROS
Executive Vice-President
AMA Education System

Congratulations to the graduates of batch 2002!

You have earned more privileges than you might have known. The history of AMAES will always recognize you as the first set of students graduated by the AMA Computer University. At this transitory stage, AMA evolves as an established institution of learning not only in the Philippines but also in other parts of the world. You were also witness to the fast-paced review and development of AMA's curriculum. The high quality of education you received from AMA is in itself a priviledge not all Filipino youths enjoy.

As you move into the world of professional ICT practitioners, you will discover the value of your education. You will definitely not regret the fact that you graduated from AMA. In fact, you have the responsibility to be as pioneering as your alma mater in the practice of your profession for then and only then can you prove that you are a real graduate of AMA.

We have already started an inviolable tradition in education. We trust that you will cherish your roots and chart new directions. You are now ready to face the world.

DR. SOCORRO M. RODRIGUEZ
VP-Academic Affairs

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Mrs. Fields' 25 years of cookie success

NEW YORK—Twenty-five years ago when mood rings, lava lamps and pet rocks were all the rage, 20-year-old Debbi Fields conceived of one really big bake sale—and Mrs. Fields cookies were born.

THE REAL Mrs. Fields

Her simple goal of offering customers homestyle cookies that were better than the prepackaged fare on grocery store shelves was a success from the start, despite—or because of—an environment that did not exactly encourage young women entrepreneurs.

"They challenged me," she said of her family's lack of support for the then-young housewife's ambitions.

"Maybe that was exactly what I needed, because of the environment around me . . . they basically kind of chalked it up to 'Let's see if she can do it.'"

Armed with a plate of cookies and a business plan, she found a banker who would give her a small business loan and her first store—Mrs. Fields' Chocolate Chippery in Palo Alto, California—blossomed, giving her a world of confidence, and setting the tone for the international, multi-brand company that bears her name today.

Could she have imagined, when people at local football games in the 1970s were asking for more of her freshly baked cookies, what her little shop would become?

"I never think about it. To me, it's always just making a cookie perfect and making the delivery absolutely individualized and something that is really special," she told Reuters. "So I thought of it in terms of one cookie at a time."

By 1990, Mrs. Fields became franchised and in 1996 Debbi Fields sold the business and stepped down from the grueling day-to-day operations. The company acquired a new CEO, changed its name to Mrs. Fields Famous Brands and expanded upon its cookie base by adding the Original Cookie Company, Pretzel Time, PretzelMaker, TCBY and Great American Cookie, to its corporate lineup.

Today the chain boasts 450 Mrs. Fields Cookie stores in the United States—that ring up about $100 million in sales annually—and even more sprinkled about in 57 countries. Overall, Mrs. Fields Famous Brands operates 4,200 locations nationwide and 80 international outlets.

But when you are possibly the world's most famous cookie with about 70 percent of the specialty cookie market share, according to Franchise Times, your quarter-century anniversary needs to be special, too.

Anniversary bake-off

To celebrate its silver anniversary, Mrs. Fields has uniquely teamed with NBC's "Days of Our Lives" and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society to host a national baking contest in which the winner will have a walk-on role on the daytime drama as well receive a cash prize.

Once the winning cookie debuts in Mrs. Fields stores in October, a percentage of sales will be donated to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society through February 2003. An extra 5 percent of specific product sales from the company's catalog division (http://www.mrsfields.com) will be donated to the charity during Leukemia Awareness Month in September.

The three-way "Winning is Sweet" promotion is rare in a corporate climate where deal making is all about cash—the more the better—because not a single dollar has changed hands.

It is being done using the time-honored

MRS./ C7

Asia's super brands named

WHAT are the brands of products and services that Filipinos go for?

According to the annual SuperBrands survey of Reader's Digest Asia, Filipinos are loyal to global brands such as Coca-Cola (softdrinks), Sony (consumer electronics), Canon (camera), Nokia (cellular phone), Nestle (food), Lipton (tea), Nescafe (coffee) and Johnson and Johnson (baby care).

Local brands such as Philippine Airlines, Lucky Me noodles and San Miguel beer also won awards, cited for their ability to live up to the SuperBrand level of products and services.

MARGARET Chua, advertising director of Reader's Digest Asia English Edition, talks about the survey during a presentation.

Super brand

A brand is considered a superbrand if it has achieved a high level of consumer top-of-mind awareness and the products or services are of top quality.

The findings were announced in an awards ceremony held at the Skytop of Hotel Inter-Continental Manila. Representatives of winning brands were invited to receive the prestigious awards and celebrate their win.

Margaret Chua, Advertising Director for Reader's Digest Asia English Edition, was present to award the winners.

The only survey of its kind and magnitude across Asia and in its fourth consecutive year, the SuperBrands survey sheds light on the consuming preferences of a representative cross-section of Asian Society.

Service

Reader's Digest said the survey was aimed at providing a service to the Asian consumers to help them in their purchase decision-making process and at the same time recognize outstanding market performers.

Respondents from six markets—the Philippines, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand were asked to vote their single most preferred brand from 37 categories of products and services. They range from luxury goods to everyday necessities.

The SuperBrand Gold and Platinum award winners achieved their status by receiving the highest ratings from consumers. The voted brands were rated quantitatively and qualitatively on quality, value, trustworthiness, strong image and understanding of customer needs.

Gold brands

Gold SuperBrand status is awarded to brands whose performance rates significantly above others in the category. Platinum SuperBrand status recognizes top-notch brands. Only a handful achieved Platinum status.

Achieving SuperBrand status is considered a vote of confidence and a seal of approval by consumers. It is also a strong indicator of brand reputation and success across the region's highly competitive markets.

Peter Jeffery, associate publisher of Reader's Digest Asia says "Over the last four years, the Reader's Digest SuperBrand research has established itself as the most significant survey of consumer preferences in Asia. Consumers are continually becoming more demanding in their requirements when making a purchasing decision. Full credit must go to the companies who provide SuperBrand products and services—they live up and in some cases exceed the exceptionally high standards that consumers now demand."

Filipinos have displayed brand loyalty traits like many of their Asian counterparts surveyed. Many recurring strong brands were voted again this year. Giant brands like Coca-Cola, Sony, Canon, Nokia, National and Nestle continue to win votes of confidence.

Going for vacation? Philippines Airlines is the local choice of air carrier, a past Gold award winner, it achieved Platinum status this year.

Honda and Toyota get the thumbs up for the most desired car votes. In the gasoline station category, Caltex, Petron and Shell are Gold winners.

Acer, Compaq and IBM are preferred computer brands; as for choice of refrigerators, General Electric is a clear favorite, a Platinum winner this year, while National and White Westinghouse performed well as Gold winners.

Filipinos love Lucky Me, Maggi and Nissin noodles, all three are Gold winners. Local brand Minola cooking oil performed consistently well, a Platinum winner for three consecutive years.

Marketers of San Miguel beer will have something to toast to as it was once again voted as the local choice of brew, clinching the Platinum award for the third time in a row. Tea

ASIA'S/ C7

One aims for joy; another pushes concern for family

From page C1

McDonalds, on the other hand, has been in the Philippines for 20 years and yet still has to totally get rid of its image as an American company, with American values.

Hemisphere Leo Burnett tried to address the problem through its "Kita-Kits sa Mcdo" campaign and the celebrity endorsers that include megastar Sharon Cuneta, Cesar Montano and Maricel Soriano. These ads brought McDonalds closer to the hearts of Filipinos.

But it was not until the "Lolo" campaign launched in November last year that McDonalds became closely identified with the Filipino family. Who did not feel that emotional tug when the Lolo in the commercial saved half of his hamburger for his favorite *apo*?

The "Lolo" campaign won several advertising awards for values.

Richard Irvine, Leo Burnett executive creative director, tells Business Friday that McDonald's has always been about family and fun, but this time McDonald's in the Philippines wanted to present the family in a more emotional way.

"The client challenged us to come out with a different and emotional campaign. We scratched our heads a few times, sat around as a group and really tried to come up with a different idea. The inspiration really came from the writer who said she got the idea when she was walking to the MRT," Irvine says.

THE BEE Happy campaign kicked off last Jan. 6

"She came running back to the office the next day and said, why not feature a grandparent? We thought it was a great idea," Irvine adds.

Less is more

Hemisphere Leo Burnett worked right ahead with the idea and got in a team of scriptwriters and production people to execute the vision. The team worked about six weeks before the television ad was finally aired last Nov. 1 and 2.

"We really refined the ideas and instead of adding things to the ad through the creative process, we did the opposite. We took things out, stripped some of the dialog to just focus on the two characters. I believe that it was a breakthrough," says Hemisphere group creative director Edsel Tolentino.

The resulting television ad showed an aging grandfather, suffering perhaps from Alzheimer's disease, who went to a McDonalds store late at night with his granddaughter. He kept calling the granddaughter, Karen, by another *apo*'s name, Gina, which irritated Karen.

But before he ate, he cut his burger, he cut it in half, wrapped it and said it was for his favorite granddaughter Karen.

The final scene that showed Karen looking up and smiling when she realized that she was her grandfather's favorite says it all, explains Irvine.

"The response to that advertisement was tremendous and I believe that it has definitely increased sales for McDonalds," Irvine adds.

Tolentino says it is fortunate that the McDonalds in the Philippines decided to go ahead with the "Lolo" advertisement even if some test groups did not initially like the commercial.

"I guess they saw our commitment to the commercial and how we believed that it would be really good for them. Trust was really key and our hats off to McDonalds because they really supported it," Irvine says.

Not lip service

For Jollibee, the "Bee Happy" campaign is not a mere advertising campaign. Navarrete says that Jollibee has taken the campaign a step further by motivating the staff and the service crew manning the stores nationwide to be happy about themselves and their work first.

They do not want "Bee Happy" to be mere lip service.

"We knew that we can only provide happiness if we are happy ourselves so it became an internal change campaign. The campaign goes all the way to the 20,000 service crew including those in the franchise stores," she says.

Jollibee management embarked on the internal "Bee Happy" campaign by inviting key managers and sales staff to view tapes or material regarding the campaign.

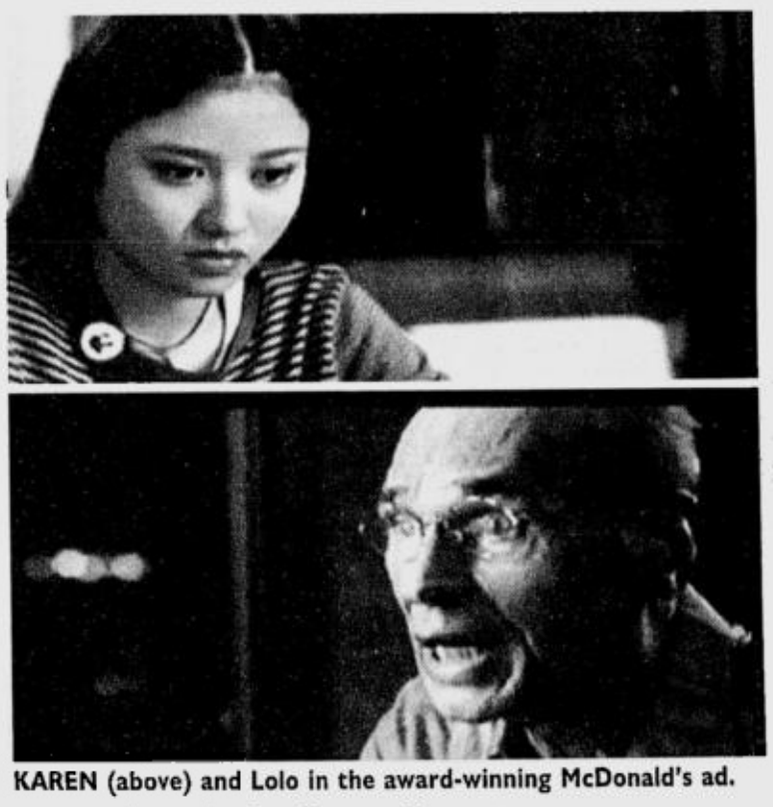
A compilation of songs with the word "happy" and an original jingle were produced for distribution to the different stores. This created a different ambiance in the stores, making them a little bit more festive.

The group of Audie Gemora was even tapped to demonstrate the different situations that the Jollibee service crew could encounter in the stores, and how best to deal with these situations.

With the additional knowledge in mind, the service crew was then able to not just say "Bee Happy" to the customers when they come in the stores, but actually mean it.

Better perception

Navarrete says it is difficult to attribute sales increases over the past months to the Bee Happy campaign alone, as other product launches and marketing campaigns were launched since January.



KAREN (above) and Lolo in the award-winning McDonald's ad.

She, however, says that there were marked increases in quality attributes that could be attributed to the campaign.

"We get research results every two weeks and we saw that there were improvements in attributes such as the service of the crew, if they make the customers feel special, efficient service, and pride to go into a Jollibee store. We believe that this is due partly to the 'Bee Happy' campaign,'" Navarrete says.

The "Bee Happy" campaign will run the whole year, with most of the advertising to come out on television, followed by radio, print and outdoor billboards.

McDonalds will likewise pursue the Karen/Gina and Lolo characters through the year to ride on the success of the first one. The aim is to build on the corporate image of McDonalds in the Philippines.

It is a fact that Jollibee accounts for about half of the total fast-food market with McDonald's a distant second.

Taxation of cooperatives

From page C3

to duly accredited charitable, research and educational institutions, and reinvestment to socio-economic projects within the area of operation of the cooperatives;

(e) Excise Tax under Title VI of the Tax Code;

(f) Documentary Stamp Tax imposed under Title VII of the Tax Code, provided, however, that the other party to the taxable document/transaction who is not exempt shall be the one directly liable for the tax; and

(g) Annual Registration Fee of P500 under Section 236(B) of the Tax Code.

On the other hand, cooperatives with more than P10 million will be entitled to the following:

(a) Exemption from income tax for a period of 10 years from the date of registration with the CDA, provided at least 25 percent of the net income of the cooperative is returned to the members in the form of interest and/or patronage refund.

The tax base for all cooperatives liable to income tax shall be the net surplus arising from business transactions with non-members after deducting the amounts for the statutory reserve funds as provided for in the Cooperative Code and other laws.

(b) Exemption from VAT under Section 109 pars. (r), (s), (t) and (u), 3 percent Percentage Tax under Section 116, and the P500 Annual Registration Fee imposed under Section 236 (B), all of the Tax Code; and

(c) Entitled to full deductibility of amounts donated to duly accredited charitable, research and educational institutions, and reinvestment to socio-economic projects within the area of operation of the cooperatives.

Other Internal Revenue Taxes

Tax exemption of cooperatives applies only to the taxes enumerated earlier. Thus, cooperatives, regardless of classification, are still subject to:

(a) 20 percent final income tax on interest from any currency bank deposit and yield or any other monetary benefit from deposit substitutes and from trust funds and similar arrangements and royalties derived from sources within the Philippines;

(b) 7.5 percent final income tax on interest income derived from a depositary bank under the expanded foreign currency deposit system;

(c) Capital Gains Tax on sales or exchanges of real property classified as capital assets or shares of stock;

(d) Documentary Stamp Taxes on transactions of cooperatives dealing with non-members when the accumulated reserves and undivided net savings of such cooperatives exceed P10 million;

(e) VAT billed on purchases of goods and services, except the VAT on the importation by agricultural cooperatives of direct farm inputs, machinery and equipment, including spare parts and electric cooperatives of machinery and equipment pursuant to Section 109 (r) and (s) of the Tax Code.

All tax-free importation shall not be transferred to any person for five years; otherwise, the cooperative and the transferee or assignee shall be liable to pay twice the amount of tax and/or duties; and

(f) All other applicable taxes

Moreover, all cooperatives regardless of classification, are considered withholding agents and are required to file withholding tax returns and remit withholding taxes on all income payments that are subject to withholding.

Tax Exemption Certificate

To avail themselves of the tax exemptions, a cooperative must secure a Tax Exemption Certificate from the concerned Legal Division of the BIR Revenue Region.

The Tax Exemption Certificate granted to a Cooperative shall be valid during such period that the Cooperative is in good standing as determined by the CDA on an annual basis.

Cooperatives are likewise required to submit to the BIR a copy of the Certificate of Good Standing issued by the CDA, together with the Annual Information Return (for non-taxable cooperative) or Income Tax Return (for taxable cooperative) and Financial Statements on or before the 15th day of the fourth month following the close of the taxable year.

Three friends pursue dream of setting up their own school

THEY were regular high school students forging friendships and forming dreams at the Ateneo de Manila when, perhaps in one lazy afternoon while outlining their castles in the sky, a thought crossed their young minds: "Why don't we put up our own school?"

Fifteen years later, as Paolo Magpale, AA Aquino and Boyax Galicia have found their own places in the corporate world, they reunited with that childhood dream and found themselves to be the youngest professionals to own a new college specializing in I.T. education.

They named their school the Thomas More College of Computer and Business, inspired by the great 16th-century statesman and church advocate, Sir Thomas More.

Thomas More College, which is authorized as a testing center for Microsoft Office Use Specialist (MOUS), offers B.S. in Business Administration, B.S. in Information Technology, B.S. in Information Management, B.S. in Computer Science, and Associate in Computer Technology in two semesters. It is strategically located along Quezon Avenue in Quezon City (in front of Delta Theatre).

A few years after graduating from college, Paolo, Boyax and AA became teachers themselves and enjoyed those fruitful years of educating the youth. Despite landing in different jobs at present, their passion for teaching never faltered, thus the formation of Thomas More College.

Now that the school is all set to open this June, the three friends are faced with a more challenging task, not as young entrepreneurs but as educators who aspire to make a difference in education. "We envision a new breed of students, a new breed of professionals," shares Paolo who works as an interest rate trader for a multinational bank after working as an associate for Ponce Enrile & Manalastas Law offices and as an accounting lecturer in U.P. Diliman College of Business Administration.

"*Homo Omnium Horarum,*" or Man for every opportunity, is the school motto. Graduates of Thomas More College will be characterized by virtues that are distinctly Thomas More: boundless curiosity for reaming, a passion for work and service, resourcefulness and flexibility.

AA is confident that Thomas More College graduates will be highly desired by employers not just because of their proficiency in the fields of Information Technology and Business but for their integrity and value for work.

Professors at Thomas More College, who are a combination of academicians from the Ateneo de Manila and University of the Philippines, and business practitioners, will employ an innovative way of teaching called "collaborative learning" wherein students will be exposed to a healthy exchange of ideas, simulations, modeling and case studies.

"We will incorporate team spirit among our students and faculty members. At Thomas More College, each individual is important," adds AA who believes that bringing out the best in a person starts with making that person feel his worth—a deed best remembered of him by his former students at St. Bridget School, Q.C., where he taught English Literature.

Thomas More College is the first college to extend tuition waivers up to 30 percent to qualified children of government employees, the Philippine National Police (PNP) and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Aside from its flexible tuition payment scheme, it will also provide full scholarship grants to less fortunate yet deserving students. "We envision a college of scholars here. Thomas More College was not borne out of a desire to make money . . .," explains Paolo.

(Interested applicants who want to be prepared not just for a career, but also for life are invited to take the ongoing assessment exams every Saturday at the Thomas More College campus. The exams will help the students determine the course that best suits them. For inquiries, call 372-6652 or 372-3269.)

Toyota faces uncertain mart in mainland China

TIANJIN, China—In 1988, when the first car rolled out of the Toyota plant in Kentucky, Japan's No. 1 automaker sold more than 610,000 vehicles in the United States, raising fears that it could overtake the US Big Three.

When China's first Toyota-branded car emerges in October from a plant in Tianjin, near Beijing, the company will face an entirely different challenge.

Toyota Motor Corp. won't have to worry about placating fears about the loss of jobs as it had to do in the United States more than a decade ago. Instead, Toyota must tackle a consumer car market that has barely been born.

On paper, a nation of 1.26 billion people looks like a sales boom waiting to happen. The reality is a market largely limited to luxury cars for government officials and the handful of rich in a communist country that is only beginning to open up.

The Chinese auto industry is a chaotic rat race crawling with some 100 auto companies, many producing clunkers.

But the Chinese market is a pillar of Toyota's ambition to control 15 percent of the world's auto market by 2010, possibly clinching the No. 1 automaker spot by beating out General Motors Corp. and Ford Motor Co.

Having scored success in both the United States and Japan, Toyota now ranks No. 3 among the world's automakers in vehicle production, controlling about 10 percent of the global market. GM controls 15 percent, while Ford has about 12 percent.

In China, however, Toyota—or "Fengtian" as they say here—is still an expensive import rarely seen on the streets and unthinkable as a purchase even for many middle-class people. Toyota sold just 15,000 cars last year in China.

The Toyota name is also associated with the rickety Xiali cabs that dodge jaywalkers and bicycles on jam-packed streets. Xiali models have been manufactured since the mid-1980s by Toyota's Chinese partner Tianjin Xiali using Toyota technology.

"I plan to buy a car, but I definitely can't buy a Toyota. One problem is price," said Lan Hai, who doesn't own a car but often drives the imported $34,000 Toyota Corolla that belongs to the fire department that employs him.

Lan believes the less fancy, locally made models that go for half that price are more in his range. But if the price is right, perhaps $14,500, Lan said he would not hesitate to buy a Toyota. "Japanese car or Chinese car, I buy the car I want," Lan said.

Whether drivers like Lan will someday be able to afford a made-in-China Toyota remains to be seen. Even a relatively cheap car can cost a dozen years' worth of a worker's pay.

Toyota refused to disclose the price of the still unnamed car to be unveiled at the Beijing Auto Show in June. But the company said it would likely be less expensive than the Honda Accord manufactured in China since 1999, which sells for $36,000 and has an image far more upscale than Accords have in other parts of the world.

Company officials promise the new car will meet the same quality standards as Japan-made Toyotas.

"We're going to win customers' trust through our reliable maintenance service that comes after the purchase. That's still new in China," said Takashi Hasegawa, president of Tianjin Toyota Motor Co.

One drawback for Toyota is that it's a latecomer in China, where GM already produces more than 58,000 cars a year and Volkswagen makes 364,000.

In April, Honda, Toyota's top rival in Japan, began making a second model in China, the Odyssey minivan, with plans to raise production capacity at its Chinese plant from the current 51,000 to 120,000 by 2003.

But Toyota said it has been preparing for its arrival in China for years. Not only has it cultivated its relations with its Chinese partner, it has brought an engine maker and other affiliate suppliers from Japan to the Tianjin area in recent years.

Toyota plans to produce 30,000 of the new cars annually.

Shinji Kitayama, auto analyst at Shinko Securities Co. in Tokyo, believes Toyota has a good chance in China, given its strength in compacts.

"Toyota is going after the mass consumer car in China," Kitayama said. "But in the beginning, competition is going to be intense."

But no one can be sure what the Chinese will want in a car. Toyota is betting they'll want a vehicle that looks like a car rather than the SUVs so popular in the United States and Japan.

"There's no mistake the demand for cars is growing in China," said Tetsuji Okada, general manager of Toyota's China Division. "But we really don't know what's going to sell."

The shabby homes, stretches of dusty earth and the rows of commuter bicycles in Tianjin are stark reminders of the poverty still prevalent in China—perhaps the biggest obstacle to Toyota's drive toward success here.

Liu Shugang, a 35-year-old Tianjin Toyota employee who drives a tiny $4,800 Chinese-made car, isn't sure he can afford the new Toyota. But he's sure his nation can learn from Toyota.

"Living in an island nation with no resources, Japanese people have a sense of crisis and feel they have to keep working harder. That sense of crisis is missing in China," Liu said. ***AP***

Asia's super brands named

From page C6

lovers go for Lipton, a Platinum award winner and Nestea is a Gold winner in the same category.

Nescafé is the winning coffee brand for java lovers, a platinum win again this year. Johnnie Walker is voted the best whisky; while Fundador, a Platinum winner and Remy Martin, a Gold winner, are the brands that locals enjoy.

And what are the top hotels in the Philippines? According to the survey, they are Manila Hotel and the Shangri-La, both Gold winners.

The results of the survey will be published in the May 2002 edition of Reader's Digest Asia and will be available on the website at www.superbrandsasia.com on April 26, 2002. The website will also feature the SuperBrands library which records survey results from 1999 to 2002.

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Mrs. Fields . . .

From page C6

barter system.

"We support 'Days' with their program with our point of purchase materials, and in turn, they do the same for us either on TV or printed material," Jodie Erickson, brand manager for Mrs. Fields Cookies, told Reuters about the arrangement.

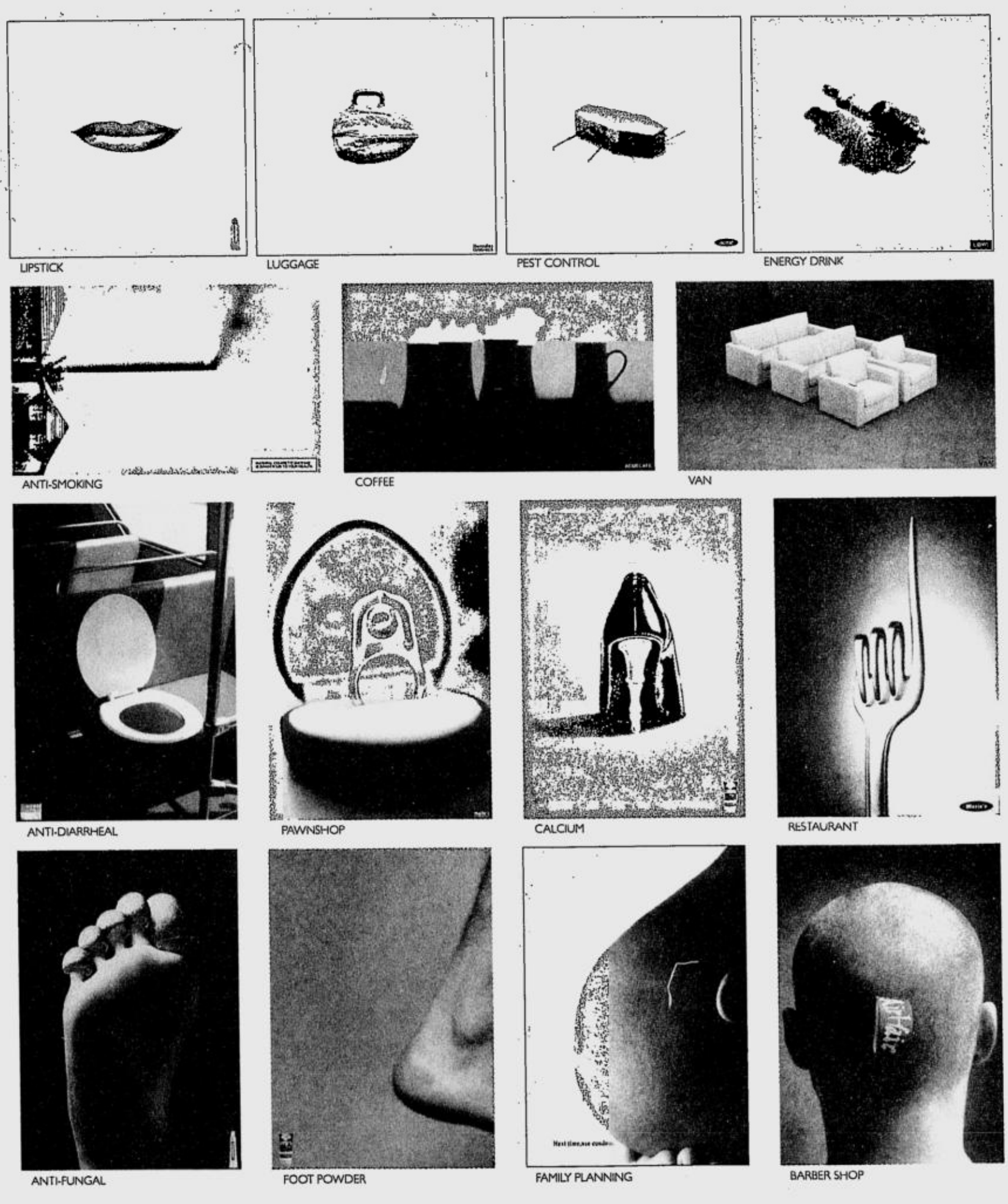
"It's a way for us to acknowledge our customers and give something back to them in our 25th year," she added. "It's also a way for us to give back to our community on a grassroots level with involvement with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society."

The dough will fly

As bakers nationwide whip up the perfect cookie treat in their own kitchens that they are sure will be the winning recipe, "Nancy Wesley" and "Alice Horton" will throw some dough of their own on the "Days of Our Lives" set. A cookie-baking contest has been written into the show's script for the beloved Mrs. Horton, and competitive, social-climbing Nancy.

"It'll be kind of a cookie war," laughed Patrika Darbo, the actress who plays Nancy. "In this case, the scenario is that we are helping each other gain more audience. We are helping each other (as) more people eat the cookies, but we are primarily helping the Leukemia foundation find a cure so that none of us have to do this anymore."

She explained that her character's teen-age daughter would discover that she has leukemia, and in turn, the audience will be educated about the disease. ***Reuters***



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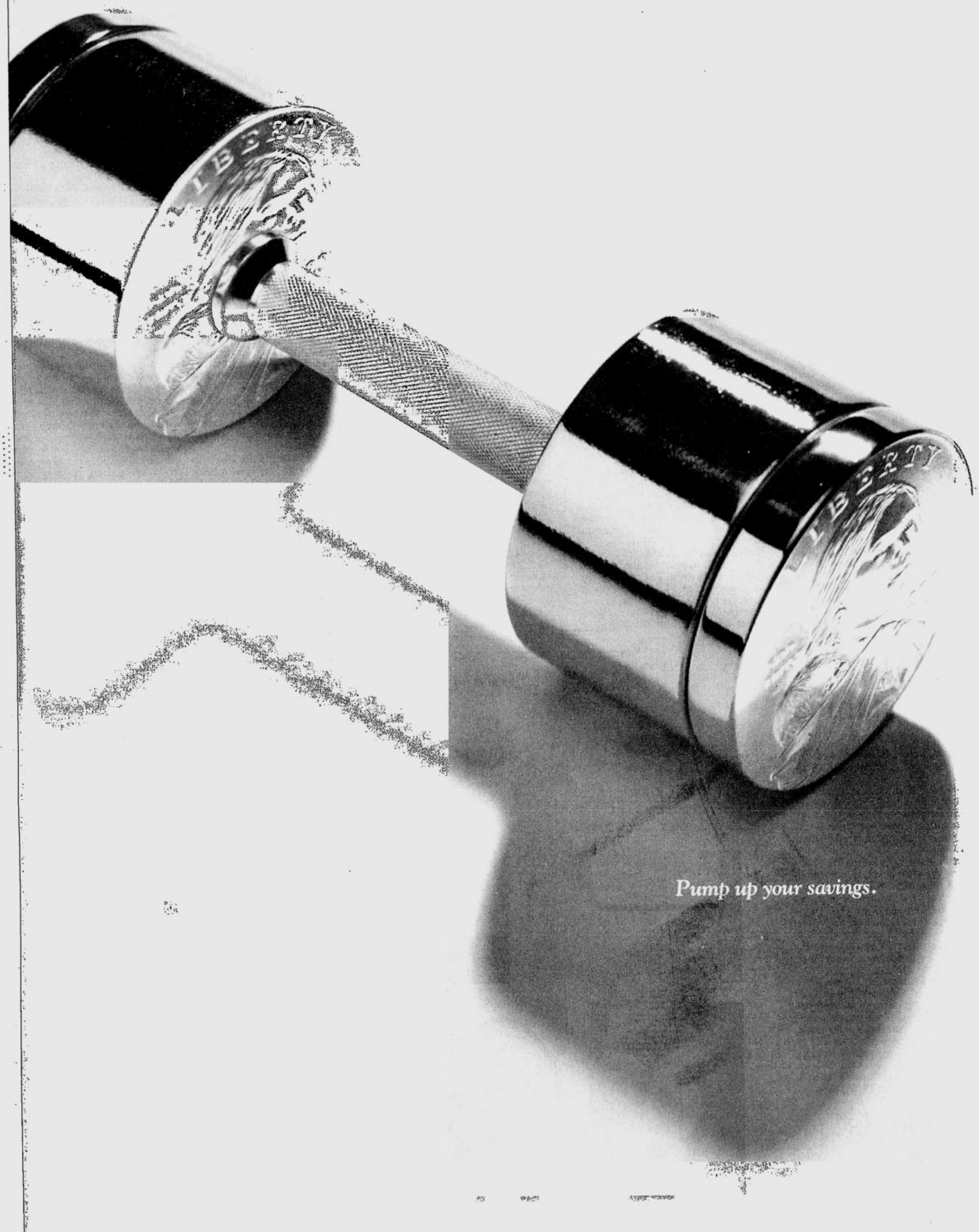

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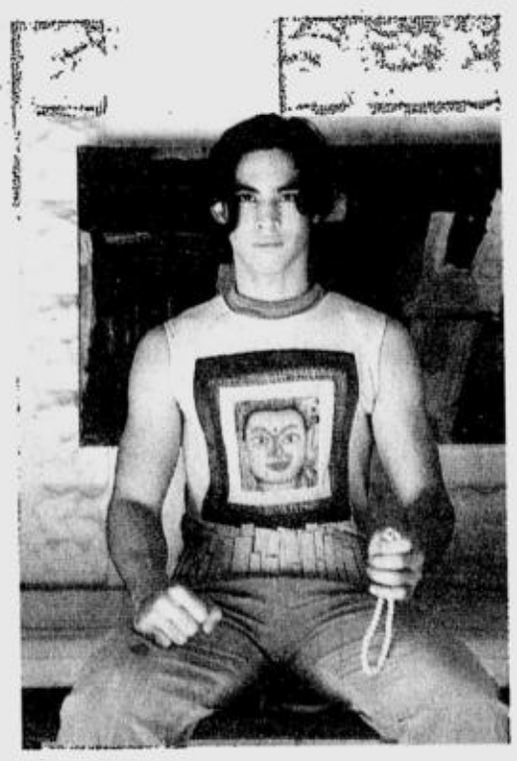

Past-*forward*

Vittorio Barba puts an original spin on the '70s fashion

Trend Spotting

STORY ON PAGE D2

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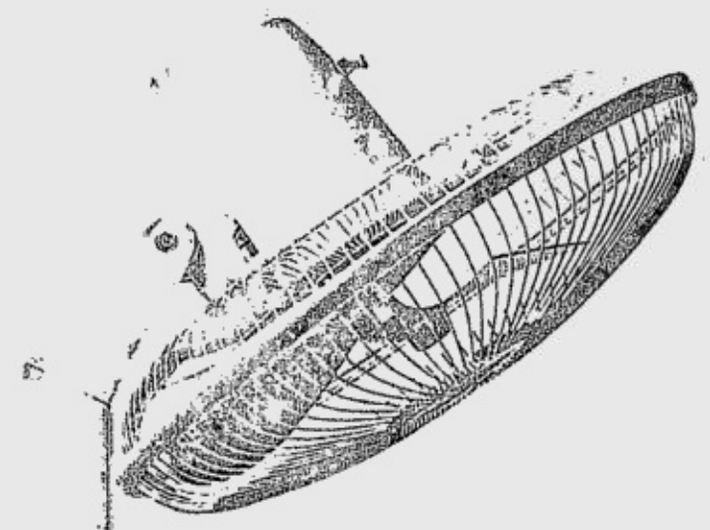
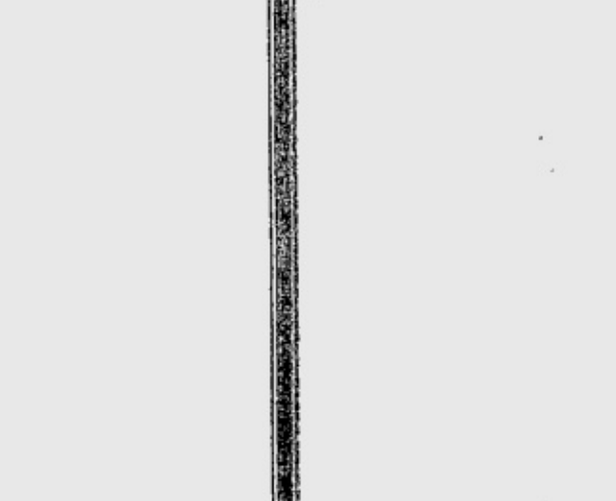


nag-bow ang Presyo!



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288

Welcome to Text To Milli,ooo,ooons El Hollywood Edition. You can start playing tommorow!

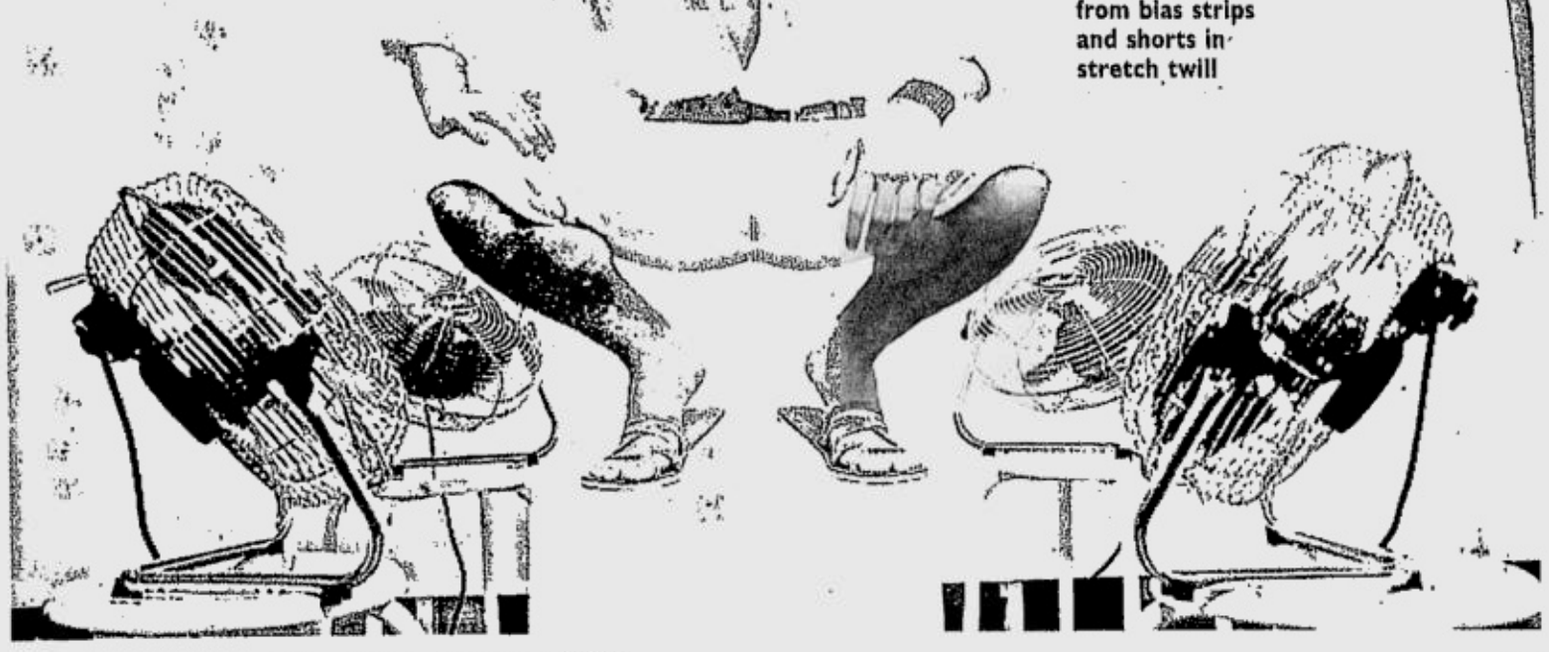
Remaining draw dates and prizes are as follows:

WEEK	Draw Dates	Prizes
Week 5	May 6, 2002	2 winners of ₱25,000.00
Week 6	May 13, 2002	2 winners of ₱25,000.00
Week 7	May 20, 2002	2 winners of ₱25,000.00
Second Monthly Draw	May 27, 2002	2 winners of ₱50,000.00
Week 9	June 3, 2002	2 winners of ₱25,000.00
Week 10	June 10, 2002	2 winners of ₱25,000.00
Week 11	June 17, 2002	2 winners of ₱25,000.00
Highest Scorer	July 1, 2002	1 winner of ₱100,000.00
Grand Draw	July 1, 2002	1 winner of ₱1,000,000.00

SMART Simply Amazing!

BLACK cotton shirt with floral embroidery and pants in cool wool

CREAM linen shirt with ruffled swirls, a popular '70s motif, made from bias strips and shorts in stretch twill



Past-*forward*

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Edwin Tuyay
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

MORE than 30 years ago, fashion reached its extreme manifestations. On the one hand, Paco Rabanne presented spare, stiff, futuristic, astro chic, reflecting the leaps in technology and the advent of man-made or high-tech fabrics. On the other, Yves St. Laurent reverted to the peasant cultures of the pre-industrial era with his soft, colorful and exotic gypsy collection.

Meanwhile, the boomers were weary of the apathy of materialism, and questioned social values. Filipino youths were angry with the government that was restricting the citizens and siphoning the national coffers. Students turned out in legions in long hair, sandals, faded denims and combat jackets.

It was in this context that the Flower Power movement emerged, bearing the message of peace and love. The youths espoused the back-to-basics philosophy and followed Eastern cultures such as India's. In Manila, the youths favored loose cotton overshirts, drawstring pants, embroidered tops and sandals. The popularity of grass and other hallucinogenic drugs inspired the rise of swirling prints and loud clashing colors.

Going retro

Designer Vittorio Barba interprets the '70s in his men's wear collection without being literal. It was the era when fashion was eclectic, as the styles were romantic, retro and rebellious.

Although famous for his women's wear at Sari-Sari Store, which favors women with tiny torsos, Barba has been building a solid reputation in men's wear. He says it only comprises 5 percent of his business but the turnover is fast.

His collection for INQUIRER harks back to the era of the Woodstock and the hippie generation. He explains that the styling focuses on fabrics from the '70s such as corduroy and jersey (the stuff his siblings wore). Two years ago, he introduced the patchwork which was also popular in the '70s. Now it has become mainstream with the flood of patchwork clothes from Bangkok and Hong Kong being sold in *tiangges*. He also designed the sandals which are summer must-have.

Barba graduated with honors in fine arts, majoring in advertising at the University of Santo Tomas. A self-taught designer, he learned the craft on the job. Barba had flair for streamlined yet fashion-forward styles. The construction of his clothes was neat. His reputation spread. Sari-Sari Store was opening a huge branch at Shoppesville. It aimed to be a store featuring young designers. In 1988, he started his women's wear label under his name. Since most of his clients were trendy and fit, the clothing line specialized in dressing up women with Ally McBeal bodies.

Unconventional

His foray into men's wear was born out of necessity. The clothes in the market were baggy dress shirts, T-shirts and basic styles. An individualist, he made his own designs and was his best advertisement. The details of his clothes were attention-grabbing.

"I was unconventional in the '80s," he said. He introduced quirky details such as uneven collars and shirt hems, missing buttons, distressed fabrics, exposed facings and contrast stitches. Instead of even stitches in attaching the velcro, Barba used the *sulsi* method for a rough finish.

Barba once made a collection with numbers on the sleeves and different parts of the shirts. His equestrian outfits worn during competitions inspired the look.

Barba has a factory in Poblacion and also subcontracts his work. He personally supervises the quality control of his production. The discipline begins in the attitude that he instills in the workers. He reminds them to be conscious of precision so that they do not make mistakes and start all over again.

The business has flourished because of his clean workmanship and youthful designs.

Fast turnover

"The sales are unprecedented!" he exclaims. He admits that the retail scene was affected in the mid-'90s with import liberalization. Ready-to-wear designers felt another whammy during the Asian crisis. Barba experienced a 70 percent growth in 2000 and a slight dip last year due to the street marches and change of administration. For the first quarter of this year, his business experienced a 30 percent growth over the same period last year.

Barba can't pinpoint the exact reason for the growth. He can only attribute it to instinct. "I know my market. In the game of retailing, it's all about anticipation," he says.

Right now, after the trend in high-tech and intelligent fabrics, customers are going back to basics such as cottons and linens. When he introduced the peasant blouse early last year before it made a splash, the style was wiped out. He made variations of the peasant top in natural fibers and they flew off the shelves. "They flatter any figure," he says.

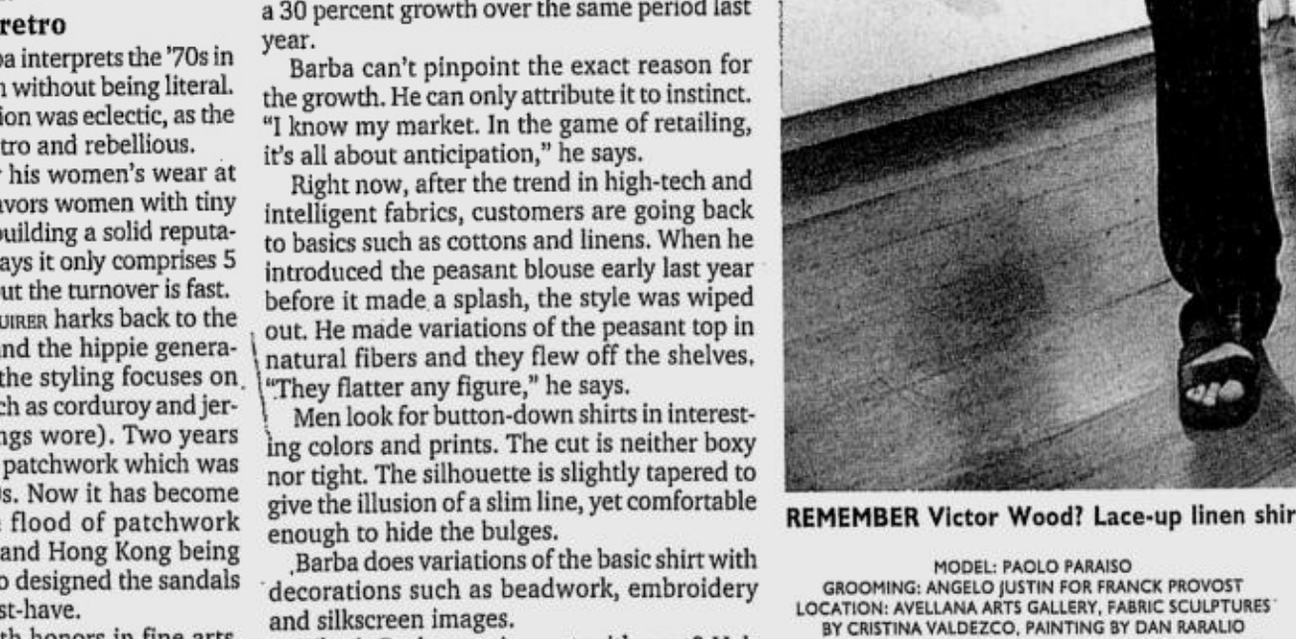
Men look for button-down shirts in interesting colors and prints. The cut is neither boxy nor tight. The silhouette is slightly tapered to give the illusion of a slim line, yet comfortable enough to hide the bulges.

Barba does variations of the basic shirt with decorations such as beadwork, embroidery and silkscreen images.

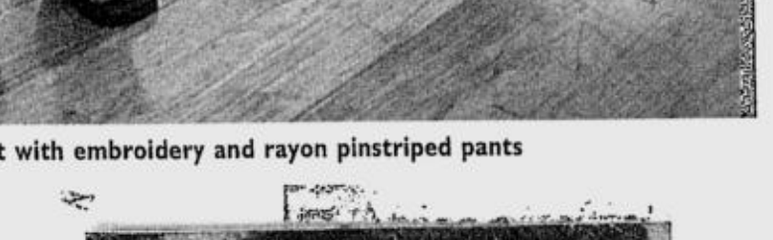
What's Barba coming out with next? He's keeping his ears to the ground.

REMEMBER Victor Wood? Lace-up linen shirt with embroidery and rayon pinstriped pants

MODEL: PAOLO PARAISO
GROOMING: ANGELO JUSTIN FOR FRANCK PROVOST
LOCATION: AVELLANA ARTS GALLERY, FABRIC SCULPTURES BY CRISTINA VALDEZCO, PAINTING BY DAN RARALIO
THIS MEN'S COLLECTION WILL BE AVAILABLE IN SARI SARI STORE OUTLETS IN JUNE

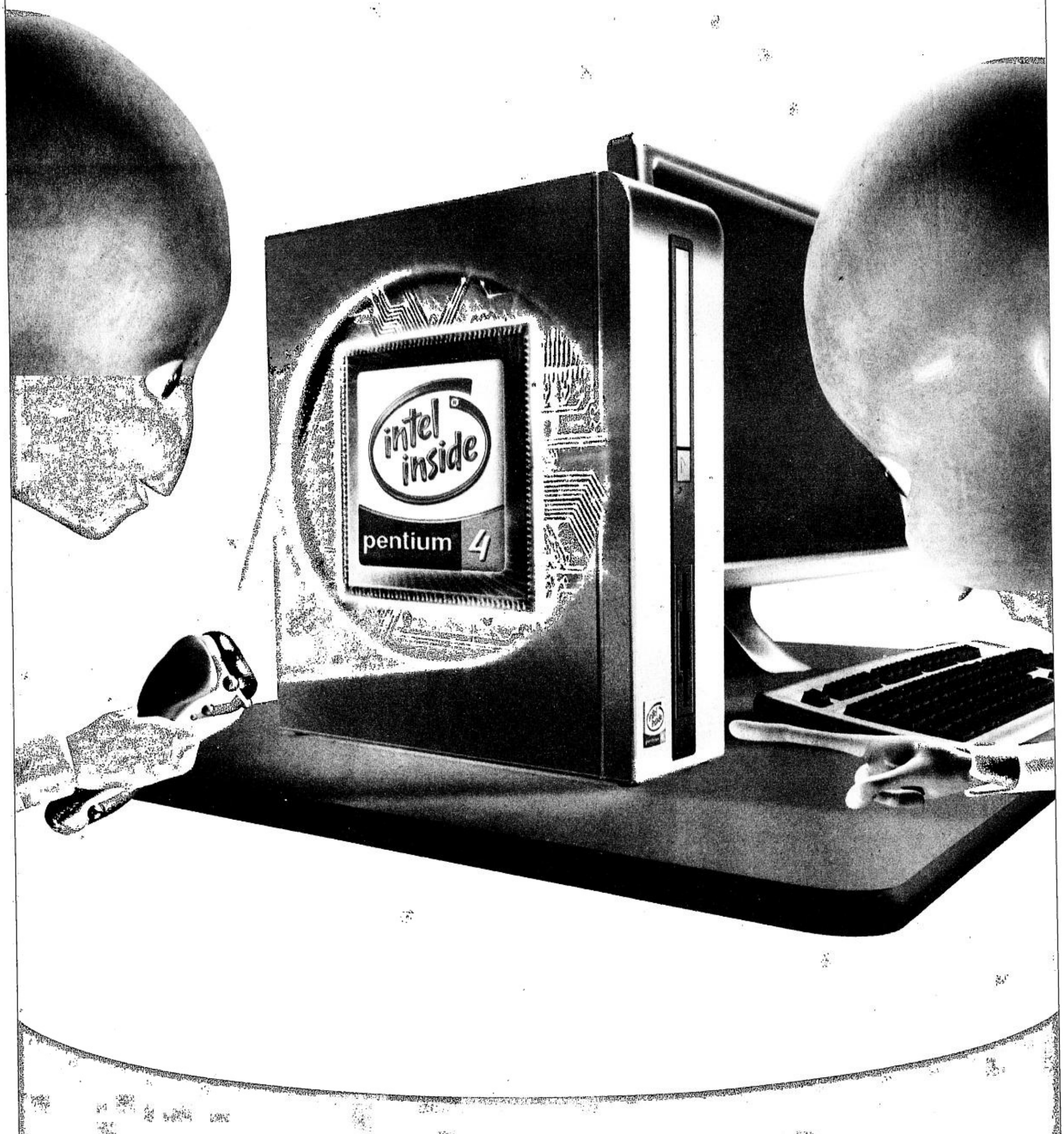


TOBACCO cotton shirt with *callado* embroidery and stretch rayon pants



THAT '70S THING. Sleeveless stretch shirt with collage and stretch corduroy pants with mosaic hip belt.

For the best performance
it's what's inside that counts



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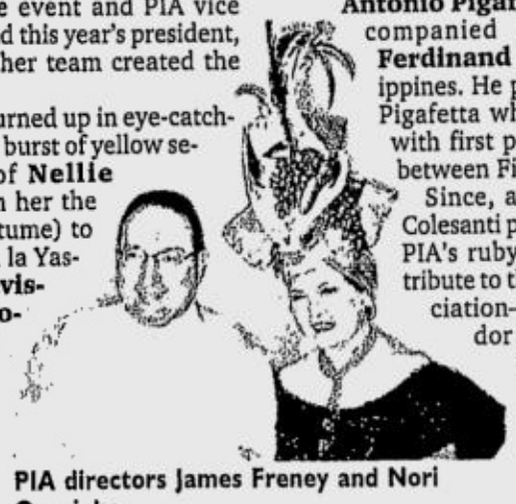
Venetian carnival in Manila

THE PHILIPPINE-ITALIAN Association (PIA) held its 40th year at the ballroom of the Manila Polo Club.

The venue had been transformed into what Italian Ambassador **Umberto Colesanti** described as "taking on the style and fantasy" of one of the most famous Italian festivals, the Carnival in Venice. It was complete with acrobats, jugglers and magicians. Incumbent president **Felicitas Montenegro** organized the event. **Silvana Diaz**, the chair of the event and PIA vice president for socials, and this year's president, **Nedy Tantoco**, and her team created the festive ambience.

ITALIAN Ambassador Umberto Colesanti

Many of the guests turned up in eye-catching costumes, from the burst of yellow sequins and feathers of **Nellie Bengzon** (which won her the first prize for Best Costume) to the Palestinian outfit à la Yasser Arafat of **Tony Leviste**, husband of **Sen. Loren Legarda**. Emcee **Johnny Litton**, who came as King Henry VIII, complete with leotards but minus the six wives.



PIA directors James Freney and Nori Ongsiako

Italian Ambassador Colesanti came in a well-cut Italian suit, while his wife **Clara** was, as always, a picture of Italian chic.

Guests savored the table laden with from *zucchini a scapece* and *timballo di rigatoni al forno* to *petto di pollo alla valdostana* to *ossobuco in umido*.

In his speech, Makati Mayor **Jejomar Binay** referred to the PIA as "the mother of all friendship associations in the Philippines."

Mayor Binay traced the roots of the association back to the Italian explorer **Antonio Pigafetta** who, in 1521, accompanied the expedition of **Ferdinand Magellan** to the Philippines. He pointed out that it was Pigafetta who should be credited with first promoting friendly ties between Filipinos and Italians.

Since, as Italian Ambassador Colesanti pointed out, this was the PIA's ruby anniversary, he paid tribute to the founders of the association—Philippine ambassador to the Holy See **Proceso Sebastian** and one of Colestani's predecessors in the Philippines, Ambassador **Eugenio Rubino**.

BETTY Chalkley, PIA director, stands in front of the main entrance that resembles the mouth of a clown.

The ambassador gave special mention to **Lina Lorenzo**, of Roman descent, who moved to the Philippines in 1934 after marrying Filipino painter **Diosdado Lorenzo**. She has been the secretary general of the PIA since its inception in 1962, and was described by Colestani as "the soul of the association as well as the engine."

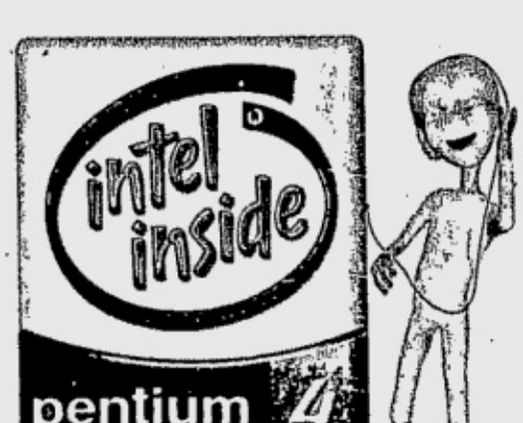
Colestani highlighted the PIA's commitment to social work, and the numerous philanthropic activities undertaken by the association down the years.

A collection of Murano pieces, including a ruby crystal chandelier and a Madonna and Child wall creation hand-chiseled in gold and crystal, were auctioned to raise funds for the PIA's charitable work.

MAESTRO Ruggero Barbieri; Lina Lorenzo, PIA secretary general; James Freney, PIA director; Silvana Diaz, PIA director; Pietro Giannatasio; Chit Montenegro, PIA president; Fr. Giovanni Arienti, assistant secretary; Apostolic Nunciature

CONSUL Clementina Principe, Marco Roberto Ascione, sponsor of costumes, masks and wall panels; Grazia Anneli, PIA director and cultural attaché of the Italian embassy; and Dario Gardini, general manager of La Taverna

particles



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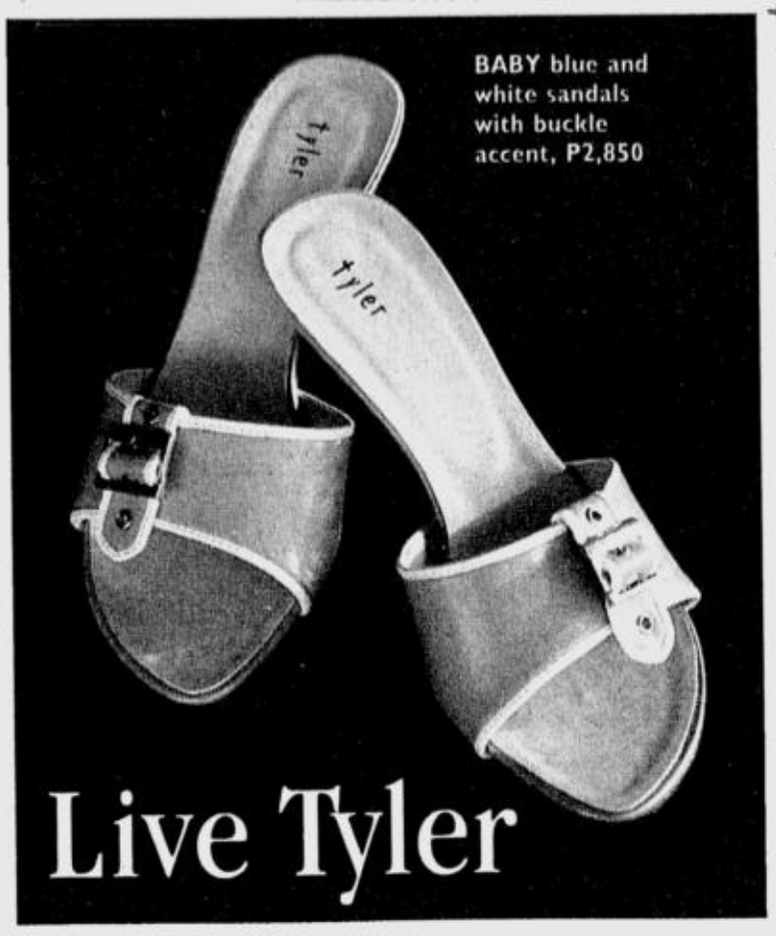


Urban poor appear in award-winning play

INTRAMUROS Evenings Performing Arts Series presents Palanca Prize-winning play "Batang Pro," 6:30 p.m., May 3, at the Puerta Real Gardens. Written by multiawarded playwright Bienvenido Noriega Jr., this harrowing socio-psychological drama on the plight of street children is staged by Dramatis Personae under the direction of Lito Casaje.

"Batang Pro" is about three abused street children, and examines the subject of child prostitution.

Call 527-2961/3138.

Fund-raiser for sick, elderly priests

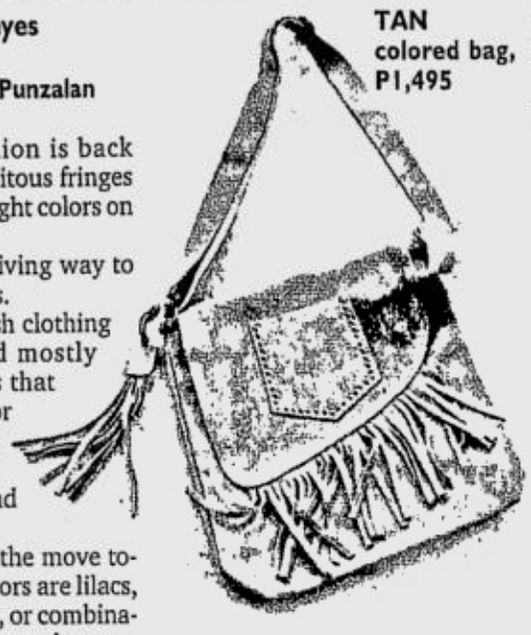
THE MISSION Society of the Philippines (MSP) and the Greenbelt chapel liturgical music ministry will hold a fund-raising concert titled "Ito Para Sa Paborito Kong Pari," 6:30 p.m., May 3, at the Francisco Santiago Hall of Equitable-PCI Building, Makati City.

The MSP was founded by the Catholic Bishop's Conference of the Philippines. Its finance office raises funds to help sick and elderly Filipino priests who were sent to far-flung areas.

Proceeds of the benefit show will be used for the medical and retirement expenses of these priests. Tickets are available at the Greenbelt chapel administration office.

Visit MSP's website at www.msp.org.ph.

By Camille Cruz-Reyes
Contributor
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan



THE '70S fashion is back with the ubiquitous fringes in belts and bright colors on almost everything.

Bold stripes are giving way to solid and pastel hues.

At Tyler, the stylish clothing store, you will find mostly powdery baby blues that go well with white or tan, pink and coral or lacey ensembles mixed with sheers and crepe blends.

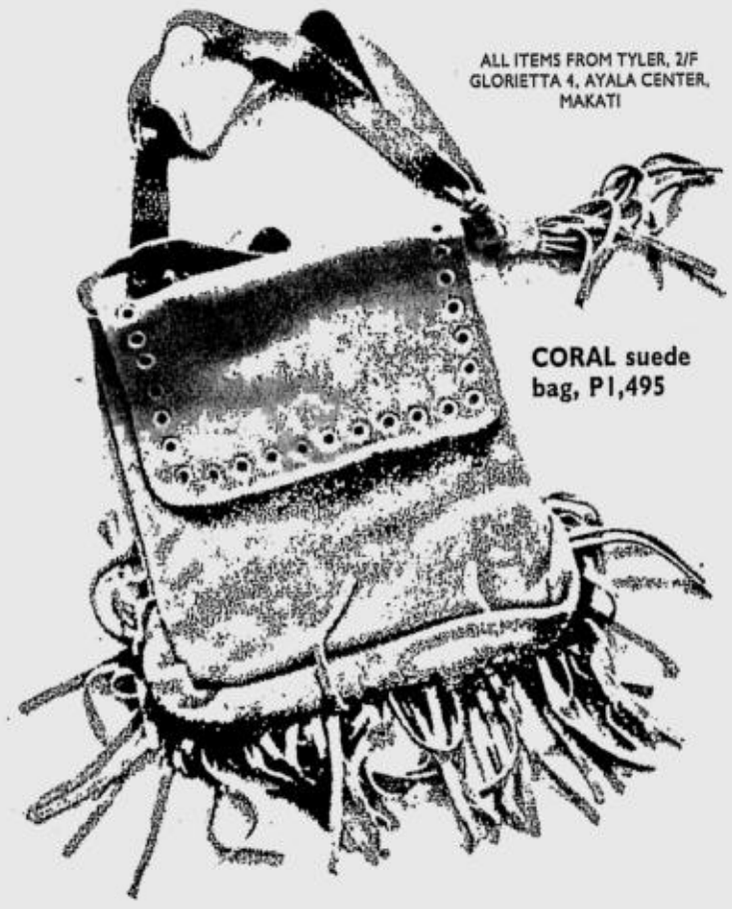
Footwear follows the move toward femininity. Colors are lilacs, powder blues, corals, or combinations. You may want to alternate your classic sandal with a blue-and-white version, accented with a buckle and wooden cone heel.

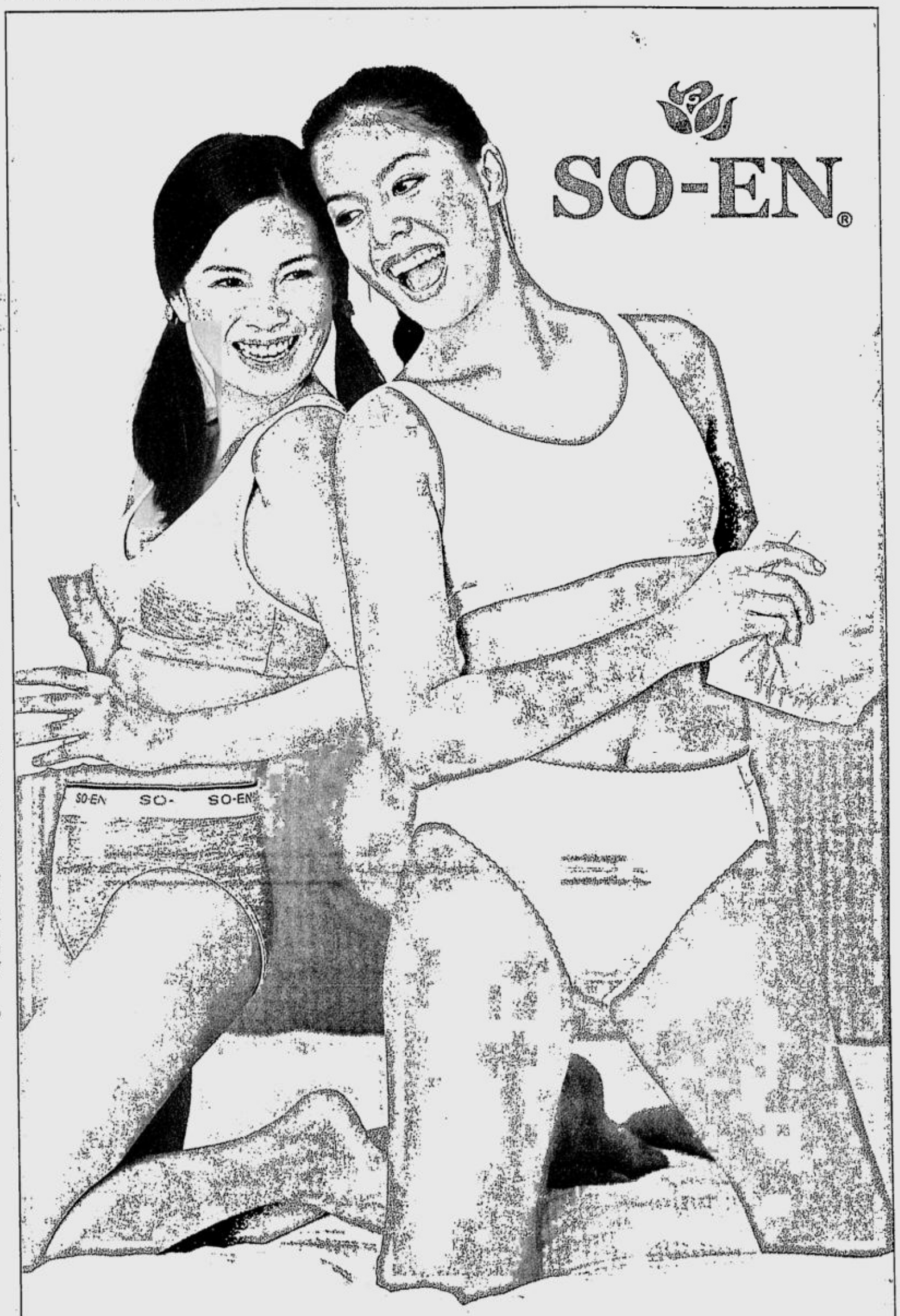
To complement this choice of footwear, complete your ensemble with clothes in other pastel colors like coral, lilac or yellow.

These colors have been best executed by Marc Jacobs, who created blended outfits by playing with purple, green, orange and brown altogether. His line successfully mixed similar colors, giving them a flirtatious mood.

The fringed, suede shoulder bag harks back to the hippie era. Now the bag is a cool fashion item. Chosen as one of the "Six of the Best" items in Vogue UK, designer Clements Ribiero's black fringed bag features fringes and an embossed pattern of folklore print. This bag looks especially good on the tall and slim.

E-mail the author at unit36d@vasia.com





MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS

A. LIPIN

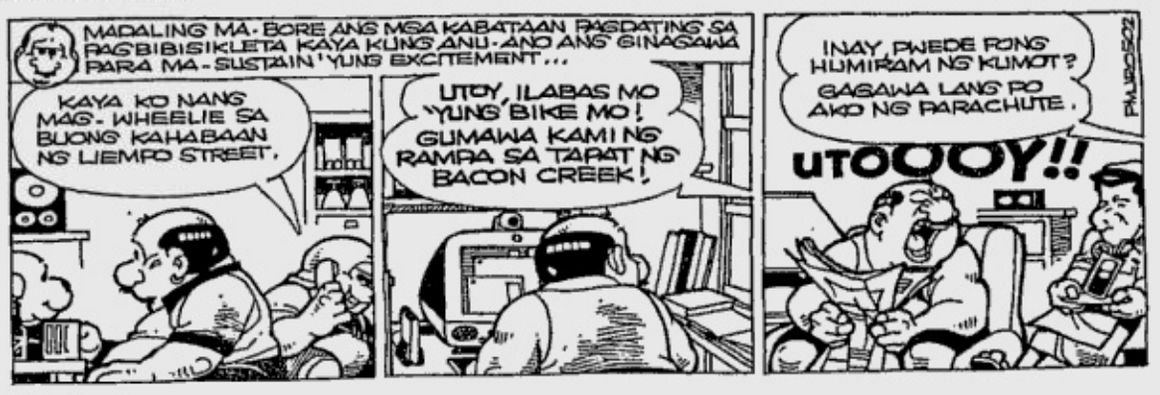
BY JESS ABRERA

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

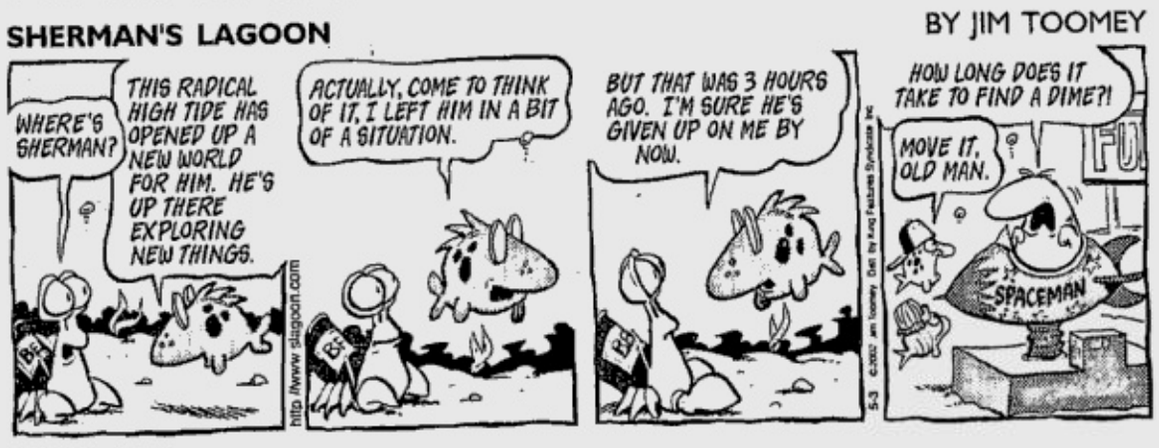
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR



SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY



CHICHOY CHOKOY

BY IKOY RICIO

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL

KIKO MACHINE

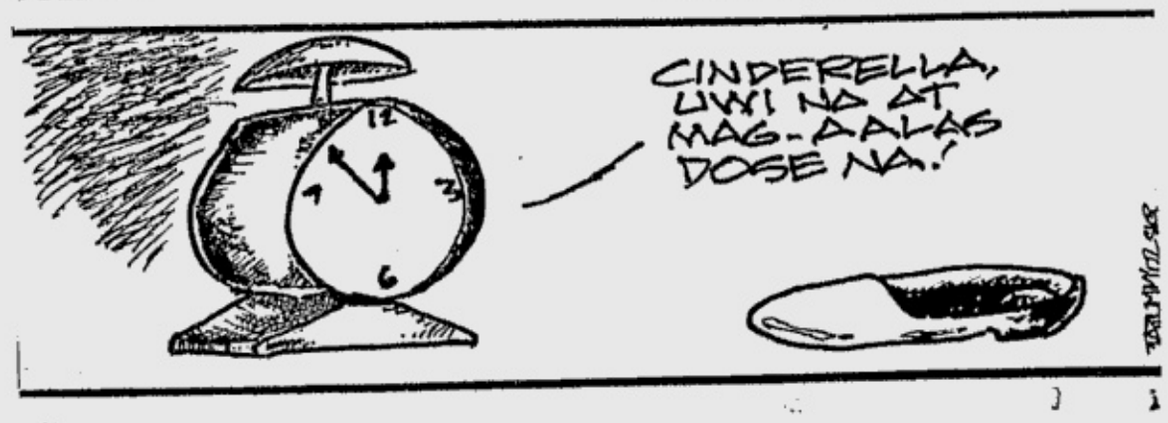
BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sugar Ray Robinson, Doug Henning, Pete Seeger

Happy Birthday: You will be ambitious and authoritative when dealing with professional issues. Your ambitious nature will lead to advancement if you are upfront and honest in all that you do. Public recognition will be your goal. You need to be praised for a job well done. Your numbers are 9, 18, 24, 29, 33, 38

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Put a creative spin on everything you do. Members of your family will be overly sensitive to criticism so don't bother telling them what you don't like.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may want to stick to yourself and avoid joint ventures. Do not take financial risks of any kind. Problems surface if you convince someone to do something that he doesn't want to do.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will be in the mood to have fun and be entertained. Your social activity will lead to romance and love. If you are already in a relationship make special plans.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your memory will aid you when dealing with legal matters that could in fact make a financial difference to your personal life in the future.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll be sensitive, loving and in the mood to get together with someone special. Moneymaking opportunities may develop through conversations with acquaintances.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Put your efforts into your work and you will reap the rewards. If you aren't happy with your current position prepare to make a move.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You need to get away and enjoy a little adventure. Travel for pleasure and social gatherings should be your intent today. New romantic interaction will develop through the company you keep if you are single.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Trouble may be brewing at home. Although your thoughts are clear regarding most matters, when it comes to financial investments you will make the wrong choices. Get sound advice before you invest the family money.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will get the respect you deserve if you are honest about your intentions. You will communicate well today so get whatever is bothering you out in the open.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): If you want to start your own small business, now is the time. Let your entrepreneurial side unfold. You can make a difference to your future and will take care of any red tape issues quickly and efficiently today.

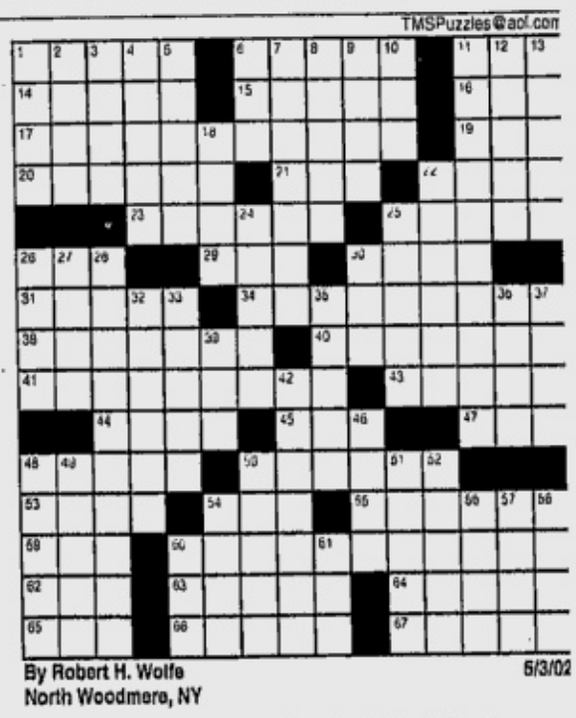
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your emotions will be close to the surface. Don't try to hide the way you feel. It's best to face issues straight on and change whatever needs to be changed in your life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): It's time to be a little reflective. Your best efforts will come from working quietly on your own. Pay close attention to detail and you will do a unique job.

Birthday Baby: You will be extremely proud of your home and your family. You will always want lots of activity going on around you, and because of this you will always open your door for any occasion.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

5/3/02

ACROSS
1 Flooded
6 French cup
11 Adversary
14 Casals' instrument
15 More arctic
16 Quick escape
17 Pioneer's jacket?
19 Bowlike object
20 Dispatcher
21 Safe place
22 Hook's underling
23 Brings out
25 Nappy leather
26 American's uncle
29 Scottish cap
30 Begin skydiving
31 Springs
34 Soldiers
38 Magazine piece
40 Use a fan
41 Old record players
43 Collectively
44 Steps on it
45 Gas additive's letters
47 Rage
48 Baste again
50 Former U.S. space station
53 Meal scraps
54 Indianapolis' __ Dome
55 Actress Silverstone
59 Tell's canton
60 Conning a president?
62 ASPCA part
63 Taken __ (surprised)
64 Actress Verdugo
65 Large deer
66 Home on the range
67 Break times

DOWN
1 Dramatic divisions
2 Had been
3 Economist Greenspan
4 Lose traction
5 Sank (a putt)
6 Up to, briefly
7 College world
8 Large and small, e.g.
9 Spotted
10 Make a mistake
11 Immune to love interests?
12 Rowed
13 Rule the dals
18 Champagne description
22 Poisonous plants
24 Sahara mount
25 "Kama __"
26 Eastern European
27 Air: pref.
28 Injury from fencing?
30 __ alai
32 Feels for
33 Nail alternative
35 Mean
36 Freeman or Van Duyn
37 February toy
39 __ Alamos, NM
42 With suspicion
46 Design
48 Wake up
49 Filmdom's Flynn
50 Get rid of
51 "Luck and Pluck" penner
52 Sacred book
54 Hick
56 Signals
57 "__ She Lovely"
58 Cries of discovery
60 Night flyer
61 ETO commander

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

B	R	E	T		P	L	A	T	T	E		G	I	G
L	E	A	R		R	E	N	O	I	R		I	D	O
I	B	R	O	K	E	M	Y	L	E	G		R	E	O
S	U	L	L	A			A	E	S		S	L	A	P
S	T	E	L	L	A	S		D	U	E	T	S		
			I	N	T	W	O	P	L	A	C	E	S	
F	L	A	N		T	O	O			S	N	O	R	E
R	U	N	E		E	A	M	E	S		D	U	N	E
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O	U	I	T	G	O	I	N	G	T	O				
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C	H	A	R		P	T	A			A	O	R	T	A
H	U	B		T	H	O	S	E	P	L	A	C	E	S
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5/3/02

Romancing the blouse

THE TOP story at SM—romance is literally back in fashion!

Today's romantic tops are far from flamboyant, but instead exude a cool, understated edge with a flutter of tiny ruffles, exquisite accent embroidery, drawstring accents. Even peasant blouses have an urban edge with three-quarter sleeves and updated silhouettes.

Worn with basic bottoms or jeans, these reveal that while romance will never go out of style, it will always evolve with the times. The romantic blouse collection is available at the Boutique Department of all SM stores.

LILAC sleeveless top with asymmetrical neckline and drawstring details.

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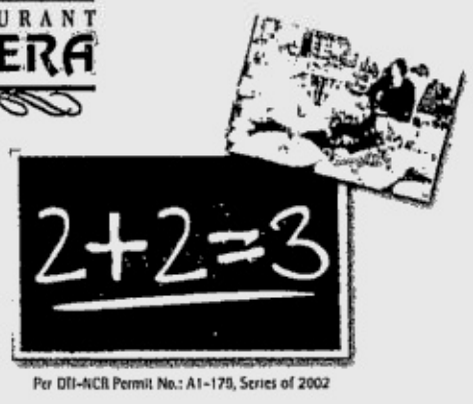

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PROMO MECHANICS

1. For every P200 worth of statement booked starting April 26, 2002 until May 11, 2002 for the Inquirer Classifieds Mother's Day Special Section on May 12, 2002, the customer is entitled to receive one (1) raffle coupon to the Mom Makeover raffle.
2. Fill up raffle coupon with your name, address, tel. no., your mother's name and affix signature, and drop in drop boxes located at Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor. Yague & Maceraro Sts., 1231 Makati City.
3. Entries must be received by 5:00 pm of May 11, 2002 to qualify for the raffle draw during which 45 mothers/children will receive any one (1) of the following:
   Fifteen (15) David's Salon gift certificates (consisting of shampoo, hair cut, blow-dry and hot oil services)
   Fifteen (15) Body and Soul Spa Treatments worth P2800
   Fifteen (15) Avon gift certificates worth P2000
4. The raffle draw will be held on May 17, 2002 at 3:00 pm at the PDI Office in the presence of an official CTI representative.
5. An individual may send more than one entry but can only win once in the raffle draw. If drawn more than once, the winner gets the prize with the higher value.
6. Raffle prizes are non-transferable and not convertible to cash.
7. Raffle draw winners will be notified by phone and registered mail, and their names will be announced via print ads.
8. Winners can claim their prizes at the PDI office upon presentation of the notification letter and a valid ID.
9. Raffle prizes not claimed within 30 days from receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of PDI with prior approval from CTI.
10. Gift Certificates are valid for one year and are acceptable at all branches.
11. Employees and staff of PDI, their advertising agency and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity and affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.
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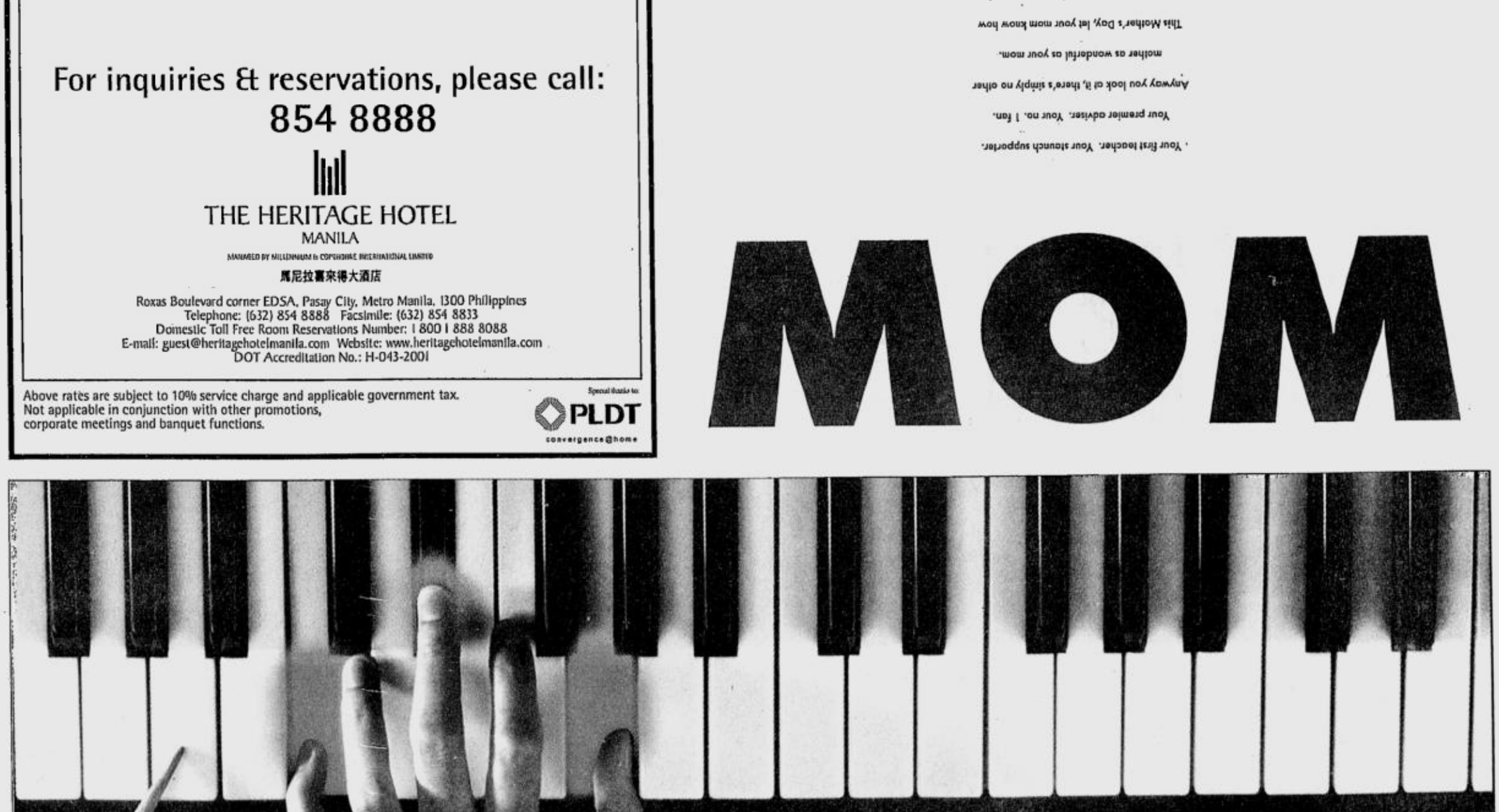

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Fashion writing can be great literature

The Penguin Book of 20th Century Fashion Writing
Edited by Judith Watt

By Cherish Garcia-Hernandez
Contributor

REVIEW

"GREAT authors are not fashion writers," says fashion historian Judith Watt in her introduction to the "Penguin Book of 20th Century Fashion Writing." And indeed the art of writing about fashion from a journalistic point of view is very ephemeral in nature. In reporting fashion, the latest news quickly becomes passé with new trends endlessly pouring in. In contrast, an author who writes about fashion to delineate a character achieves longevity.

Using excerpts from novels, poems and memoirs, Watt explores the inherent relationship between fashion and literature. Focusing on the great authors of the 20th century, like Oscar Wilde, Sylvia Plath, Colette and Quentin Crisp, to name a few, Watt uses their work to establish the undeniable influence fashion plays in recording history. Clothes are not simply peripheral pieces used to help describe a character. They are used as visual tools to set a mood, establish social status, or to add texture to a certain milieu.

Watt's provocative and witty anthology reveals how fashion is used to discuss social and sexual taboos, gender and sexuality; to evoke class sympathies and social antipathies; and to define and defy identity.

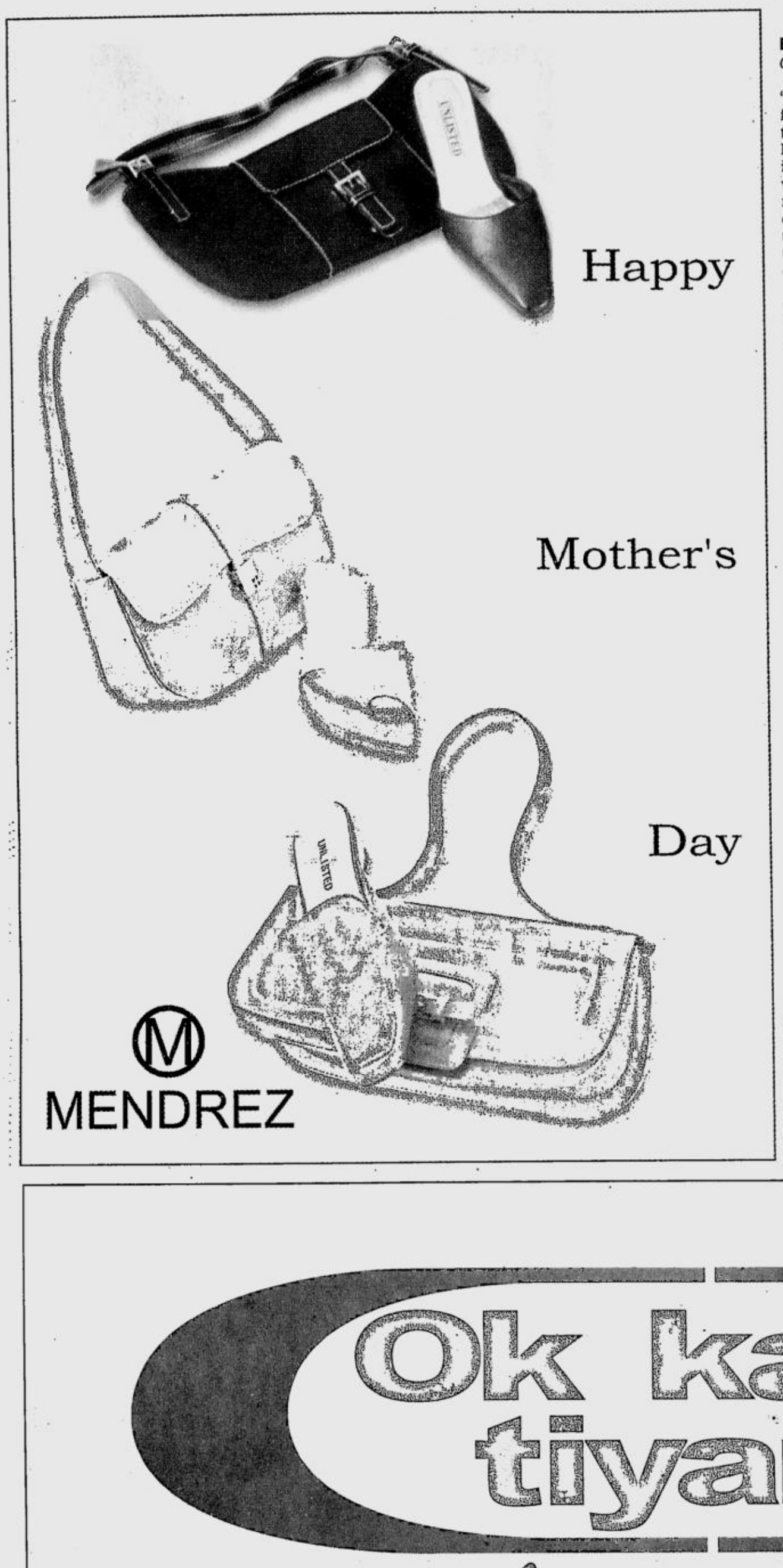
For instance, in the Nabokov classic "Lolita," so much attention is placed on the girl's bobby socks, obviously to remind the reader that she is still a child as that single piece of clothing makes quite clear. Other classics like Daphne du Maurier's Rebecca are scrutinized as well, significance being given to the frightening Mrs. Danvers' obsession with the late Rebecca's clothes. The sexual undertones are clear when Mrs. Danvers rubs the velvet of her late mistress' gowns lovingly across her face.

The beauty of this collection is that its content is so satisfying. Watt even includes modern-day authors like Nick Hornby, Donna Tartt and Tom Wolfe to further emphasize that clothes and fashion will always be an intrinsic part of literature. The result is a rereading that focuses purely on fashion and its purpose in the context in which it was written.

It is the kind of book you don't read in one sitting—the sensory overload can be overwhelming. Rather it is something you want to keep by your bedside, to keep going back to until all the pages are dog-eared and tattered. The kind you don't relegate to a shelf after you are through. It is intelligent without being pompous and pleasant and light enough to bring to the beach.

More than a history of fashion, this is a study of social and cultural changes in the 20th century. This becomes clear as you read the works of so many talented authors in one breath. The book is a fantastic read for anyone whether or not you give a damn about fashion.

E-mail the author at cherishgh@yahoo.com



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AVANT-GARDE. A soft, golden-eye shade was applied to the whole upper lid and the temple and below the lower lid to the top of the cheekbone. A darker color was applied to the inner corner of the eyes. The eyes are balanced with blusher and lip gloss in the same warm tone in Cacao Fizz and Champagne Sparkle. Model: Patricia Ongsiako

CLASSIC. What can be more classic than earth-toned eye shadow and pink lips and cheeks? Dark eye shadow is applied from the outer lid until about 1/3 of the way along the lower lid, extending outward a little. Model: Jojo Ongsiako

TRENDY. Blue eyeshadow was applied along the entire lid. Lower lids were lined with brown eye shadow. Cheek and lip colors in rose and grape offer a contrast to the eye makeup. Model: Marilou Lacson

Match sunny days with glowing skin

Go tawny

TO COMPLEMENT sheer and natural clothing, YSL makeup espouses a copper-tinted complexion, bold sensual eyes and a magnetic amber-hued smile.

YSL's Poudre Eclat D'Ete is a light bronzing powder that sculpts the face and gives the illusion of warm tan. It can also be used to highlight the sensuous curves of your shoulders or your cleavage.

For the lips, Rouge Vibration comes in shades that flatter the tan. Copper beige is a desert rose shade that is between pink and orange. Glaxed Chestnut is brown heightened with gold, white, pink, ochre and orange mother-of-pearl particles. Shimmering Mahongany is a deep-red brown, flecked with gold and saffron.

PHOTO BY WAHOO GUERRERO
MODEL: E PHILIPPINES' LANA ASANIN.
HAIR AND MAKEUP: JEOFF MORAN AND DANNY K OF EMPHASIS SALON

Photos by Raymond Lauchengco

YOU can't be a makeup artist if you don't like color!" says Tom Pecheux, Shiseido's makeup guru. "I love black, red and fluorescent pink. I like to bring colors in small doses, and pastels with just a hint of liner, or nothing at all."

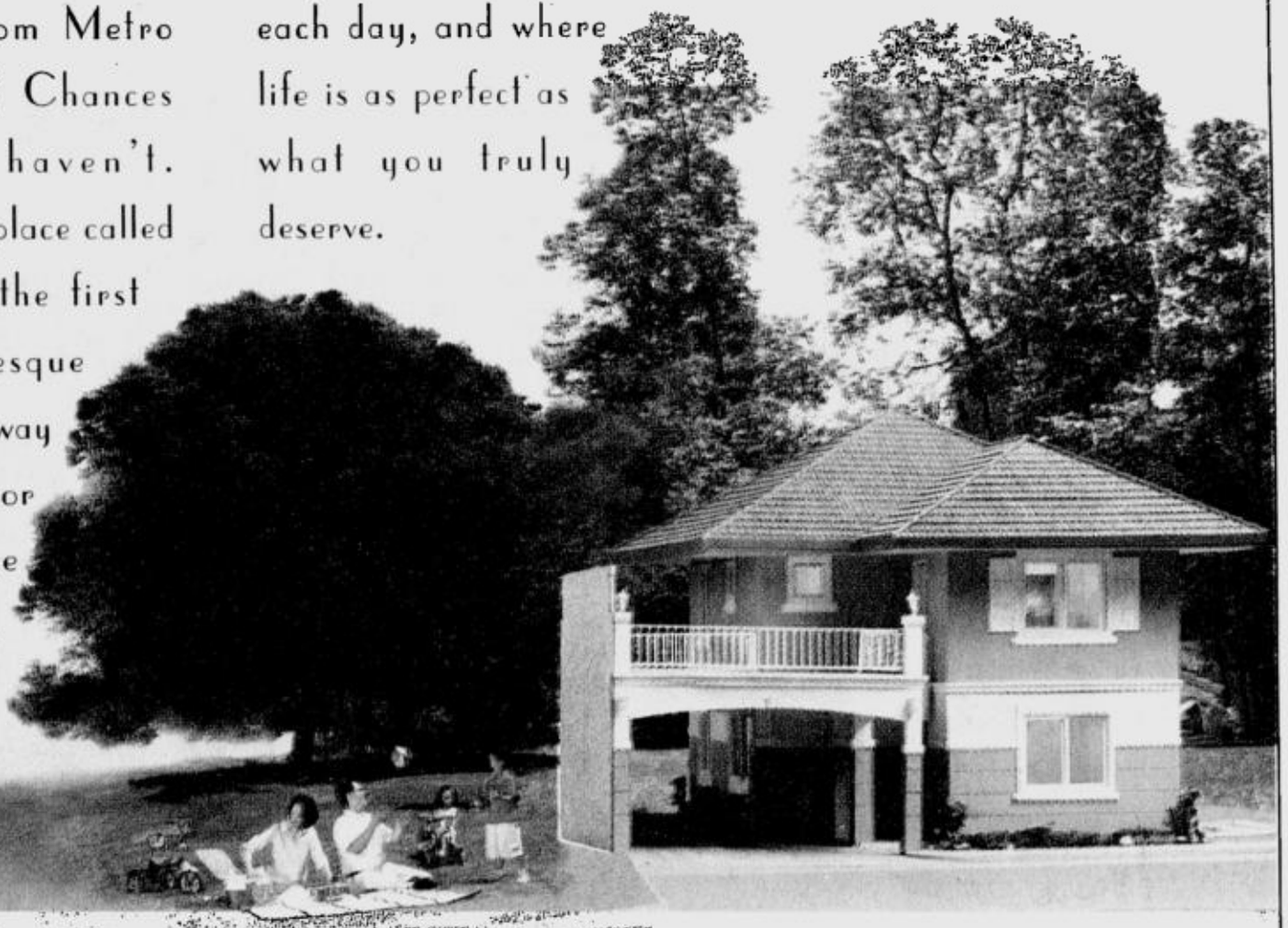
Pecheux makes his forecast a year in advance. "I don't try to create the trendiest colors, but rather shades that are not too difficult to use. I refuse to impose a color just because it's supposed to be in fashion. It's up to each person to find what suits her best and makes her feel good," he says.

Shiseido's The Makeup has optic effects to give the illusion of glowing skin. "The products operate on several levels, to create a more matte, reflective or iridescent complexion. What is makeup all about, in the end, if not to tame light?" says Pecheux.

The key look for summer is radiant makeup and a sunny demeanor.

Commune with nature everyday in a place just a few minutes away

When was the last time you saw a most splendid dewdrop that your jaw dropped? Or woke up to the sound of melodious chirping by early morning guests... without traveling miles and hours from Metro Manila? Chances are, you haven't. Experience this in a place called St. Alexandra Estates, the first Ayala community in picturesque Antipolo. A place where serenity is a way of life and Mother Nature your next-door neighbor. A Mediterranean inspired village accessible to the business districts of Ortigas, Makati and the exclusive schools of Quezon City--complete with all the amenities Ayala-managed subdivisions are known for. The houses use the innovative French Phenix building system, which combines durability and space optimization. With 60 different in-house payment schemes to suit your finances. It is a sanctuary for you and your family. A nest where dewdrops welcome the dawn of each day, and where life is as perfect as what you truly deserve.



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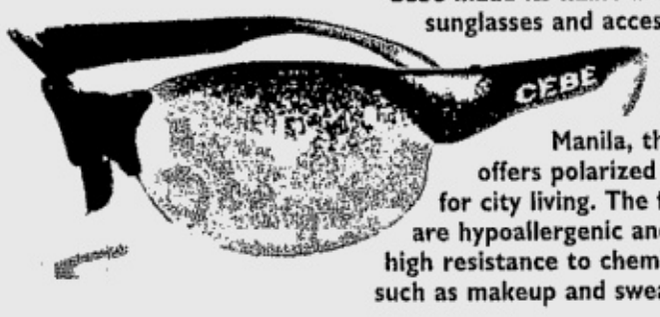
THE '70S are back with these big glasses in magenta by Loewe. They go with any outfit. PHOTO BY CHITO VECINA

Shades of summer

MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE EYES. Dolce & Gabanna's mirror lenses are comfortable and are big news in Europe. Both sunglasses are available at Optical Works in major malls.

PHOTO BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN



CITY SLICKER. French brand Cebe made its name in sports sunglasses and accessories. Recently launched in Manila, this label offers polarized shades for city living. The frames are hypoallergenic and show a high resistance to chemicals such as makeup and sweat.

Martel to speak at livelihood training

MARTEL

BELEN Lovina Ticzon Martel, executive vice president of Harrison Plaza, will be the guest of honor and speaker at the ninth graduation ceremony of the Filvets Livelihood Training and Productivity Center today at the VFP Museum, Veterans Center, Taguig, Metro Manila.

The 202 graduating students consist of children and grandchildren of World War II veterans, retired and active personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines from Taguig, Pateros, Muntinlupa and Pasay City.

Martel, wife of Antonio V. Martel Jr., president of Harrison Plaza and chair of the board of Marsteel Consolidated Inc., is also chair of Belco Marketing Inc., director of Marsteel Consolidated Inc. and trustee of the Filipino War Veterans Foundation Inc. (Filvets).

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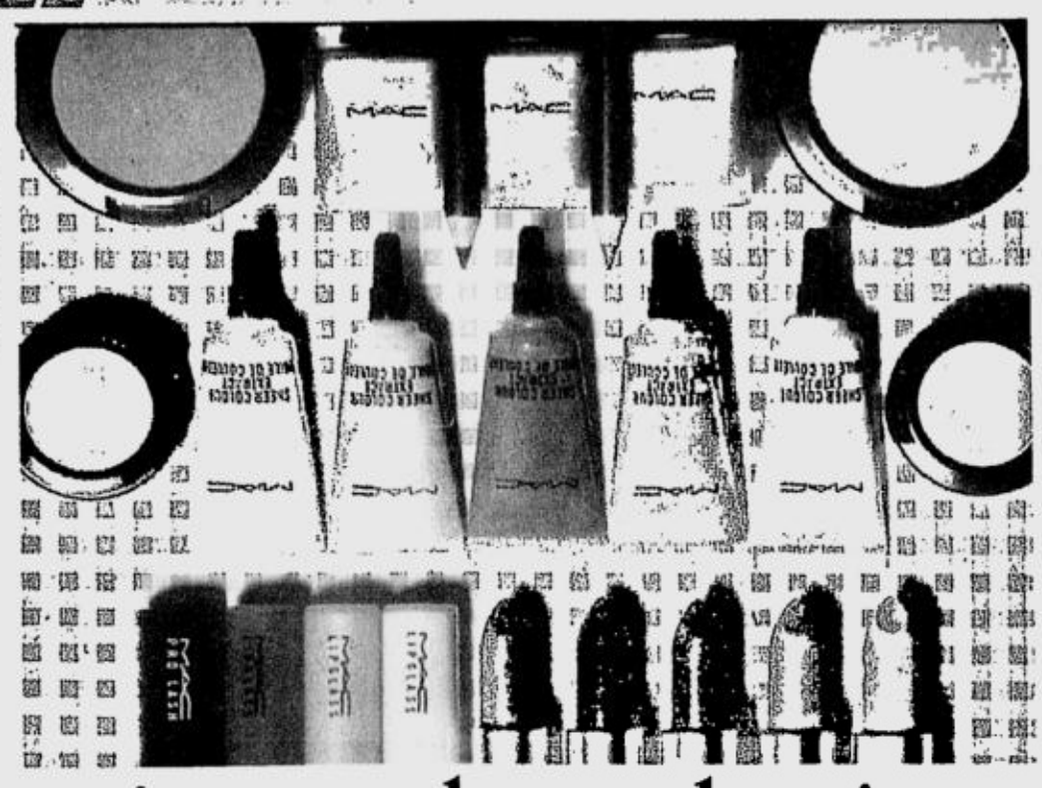

MAC'S next look is the Pool Party in cool colors. Revel in all-reflective ripple effects of gossamer, fine glazes, frosts, pearls and satins.

Relearning makeup basics

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IF you're wondering why Mac is the favored brand by professionals, it's because there's a lot of work that goes into the process—from the preparation of the skin to the actual application.

Mac recently held a workshop to educate customers about skin care and how to use its products. More often than not, customers shy away from makeup because they don't know to apply the colors correctly. A workshop or a lesson from the Mac Pro Team explains how to make the most of the products.

Squeaky clean

Foremost among things to remember is the importance of keeping a clean skin for smooth application of color. If you skip the cleansing routine at night, then your face will age by seven days upon waking up.

Know your skin type. The best time to determine your skin condition is in the mid-afternoon. Look in the mirror and see which part of the face is shiny and which is dry. Women with oily skin tend to have large pores. As they age, the oil production will slow down, but the pores will retain their size. Women with dry skin will feel a matte texture.

Use the right cleanser. Some formulas are too strong, leaving the skin taut. The right cleanser makes the skin look clear and feel comfortable. For oily skin, go for gel-based cleaners as they have mint for soothing and antiseptics for fighting bacteria.

Exfoliating the skin is an anti-aging treatment. Mac's Scrub Mask is part mask, part exfoliant. The clay-based formula extracts impurities from the pores, leaving the skin fresh not scaly. A multitasking product, it smooths out rough skin patches on the elbows and feet.

When the face has been scrubbed, Studio Moisture Fix, for oily skins, provides a flowing finish to any foundation. For tired eyes, Fast Response Eye Cream not only reduces puffiness but also contains special optics to lighten dark circles and make the wrinkles fade. When applying eye cream, dab with your ring finger from the inner corner of the eye to the outer corner.

Mac has developed the Pro-Preferred White for the Asian skin, which is prone to pigmentation. It not only lightens dark spots but also creates a radiant effect when mixed with foundation. The line includes a softening lotion that has natural skin lighteners blended with suspended optical diffusing powders to even out blotchy skin. The Pro-Preferred White SPF 30 moisture can turn any foundation into a complete sunblock. The White Intensifier gives the face an instant glow aside from acting as a potent serum.

Here's a Mac tip: use downward strokes when cleansing, toning and scrubbing the face. Use upward strokes when applying moisturizer.

Knowhow

Makeup users may think they know everything. However, it pays to take a refresher course to learn the fine points of makeup.

Mac insists on using brushes for a polished look. During INQUIRER's session, it took at least five brushes to do the face and three for the eyes.

Foundation. Mac's Studio Finish is a liquid foundation that's almost imperceptible. Use a cotton swab to get the foundation from the bottle and dot on the forehead, nose, cheekbone and chin. Spread it with Mac's powder/foundation brush.

Mac's concealers come in formulations to suit red tones or black skins, yellow and pink tones for Asian and Caucasian complexions. Use the concealer brush 242 on imperfections such as veins, pigments and zits. Set the makeup with Studio Fix powder. Brush toward the center of the face. Use a smaller brush for the smaller crevices such as the inner corner of the eye, the sides of the nose and the chin.

Eyes. Gently dab color on the eyelid so you don't put too much. Blend by using circular strokes. For contour, use a darker shade on the outer corner of the eye. Diffuse the color on the eye socket. Blend by using upward and outward strokes toward the browbone. Highlight under the browbone and gently stroke downwards. Mac's Eye Kohl doubles as a liner and eyeshadow. Mac has developed a mistakeproof liner brush so you can draw a fine line on the upper lids. To get accurate mascara strokes bend the wand and squiggle the bristles from the roots of the lashes all the way to the tip.

Mac's Spiked Eyebrow pencil gives a natural color. Never start from the inner corner of the brow. Apply from the corner above the eyeball and stroke outward. Even the color with an angled brush. If the eye color goes out of the natural arch, correct with a concealer brush.

Cheeks. The easiest way is to smile and apply blusher on the apples of your cheeks. Use a round brush and apply the color in circling motions. For a dramatic look, concentrate the color on the area from the center of the cheek to the outer edge of the eye.

Lips. Mac's latest product, the Lip Lacquer, is a combination lip gloss and lipstick. It's got the intense color of a lipstick while providing the sexy shine of a gloss.

Marge C. Enriquez

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

LIFE at Home

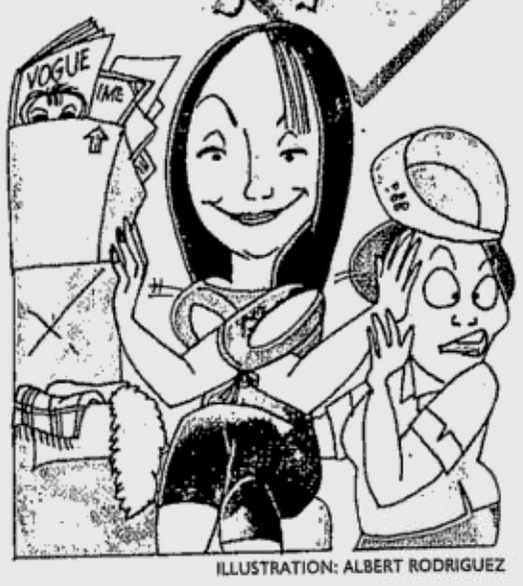

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Sorting out your psychic dirt

ONCE our meeting strayed into an accidental topic, and like all accidents, this one served a purpose that's bound to be carried over into many days in our lives, hopefully.

We were discussing how to use the synergy of TV and print to spread the message of Bantay Kalikasan when talk turned to the state of clutter in our homes and offices.

"Clear them out to make room for fresh energy," **Gina Lopez** told us as we prepared to listen closely. I say listen because even while we've heard this—the need to clear clutter, especially on New Year—we knew we'd get yet another new insight, if not knowledge, from Gina.

Thelma Sioson San Juan

This fortysomething woman, who heads ABS-CBN Foundation and carries forth her causes come what may so don't bother to get in the way (**Geny**, her dad, used to call her the "steamroller"), has an incurably refreshing way of seeing and treating the world and even life itself. Gina, relatively young as she is, has been through life, if not lifetimes, but that story is for another day. For now, we were content to listen to her view and plan of action about clutter in our lives.

Personal litter

As we rattled on about the variety of clutter waiting not only to be cleared away, but even to be noticed, I thought of how that very moment my garage was (still is) packed to the roof with stuff from my years—from the slumbooks of grade school, "The Little Prince" and Chairman Mao volumes of my high school, Times/Newsweeks/Vogues of my college, way into the remnants of the beginning of my career, to the size 4s of my '70s fashion. I'm renovating my house and my folks have just moved in along with the stuff of my growing-up years and their growing-old years. That is not only clutter, that is a universe unto itself. And the enormity of the task must be faced with a most basic first step—just looking at the universe, which I haven't even begun to do.

Gina proceeded, "It begins by knowing what you want out of life. You must visualize it. Clear the space for it."

Then, she went on, "You know that you don't need it. Discard it. You know, like the broken stuff: it's not good to be surrounded by those. Broken bottles, grills, not good for the house. All that clutter creates stagnant energy. You can't move forward. No growth."

She explained how and why we must create space for fresh energy. "You need to create space to visualize what you want out of life."

That stuck in my mind. I knew we could visualize what we wanted, but making space for it was something so abstract to me, until then. I didn't realize that those redundant containers, vases, trays—or makeup, and the sizes 4/6 that I'd never fit into again anyway, especially the clothes—were getting in the way of getting what you wanted out of life. Making room, for things and new people in my life, was again another matter I never gave some thought to. I've always felt they just really popped up in your day, uninvited sometimes, just like text messages and e-mail, or calories.

"Surround yourself with only the things dear to you," Gina said. No excess baggage, I thought.

"No psychic dirt," Gina said. Now, that was new to me and I turned that thought over and over in my mind for days.

What could be psychic dirt? Or "who" could be psychic dirt? I'm clear about the household/office stuff I may no longer need; it's just the time and effort I'll have to spend to discard them that is a question. But psychic dirt—living or nonliving—is something I'm not quite prepared to sort out.

I guess it must be the stuff—like attitudes, thoughts or past hurts—that hamper one from moving on. But psychic dirt referring to the living is... who?

Meeting someone

How do you screen the people entering your life, and I don't mean those you do busi-

SORTING// p.F3

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MONTEREY STUFFED BELL PEPPER

Ingredients:

6 pcs.	green/yellow bell peppers, cored, boiled for 5 minutes & cut into quarters
Filling:	
1/2 kg.	MONTEREY GROUND BEEF
1/2 cup	onions, chopped
1/2 cup	celery, chopped
1/2 cup	carrots, chopped
1 tsp.	salt
2 pcs.	eggs
1/4 cup	tomato sauce
1/2 cup	MAGNOLIA QUICKMELT CHEESE
Toppings:	
1/4 cup	bread crumbs
1/2 cup	grated MAGNOLIA QUICKMELT CHEESE
Sauce:	
1/2 cup	butter
2 tbsps.	minced garlic
1/2 cup	onions, chopped
1 cup	tomato sauce
1 tsp.	sugar
1 tsp.	worcestershire sauce
1 tsp.	liquid seasoning
1/2 cup	MAGNOLIA QUICKMELT CHEESE

Procedure:

Prepare filling ingredients together. Stuff mixture into quartered and boiled bell peppers. Place peppers in a casserole or baking dish. Meanwhile, in a saucepan, sauté garlic and onions in melted butter. Add tomato sauce, sugar, worcestershire sauce and liquid seasoning. Stir in cheese. Pour sauce over bell peppers then top with bread crumbs and grated cheese. Bake for 30-40 minutes at 375°F. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

*For more recipes, log on to www.sanmiguelculinary.com

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THE ALCASIDS—Michelle, Leila and Ogie are happy in a new and bigger home.

VANTAGE POINT. The long and winding staircase offers a good view of the entire sala (and nearby establishments in Libis).

Singer's home is a harmony of old and new

By Leah Salterio
Photos by Patrick Uy

WOODEN furnishings are the main attraction in the modern, two-story home of singer-songwriter Ogie Alcasid and former beauty queen Michelle van Eimeren in Acropolis, Libis, QC.

Antique cabinets blend with new wooden fixtures, which the couple has gathered from different parts of the city—an antique store in Malate, the *tiangge* in Virra Mall in Greenhills and the house of an antique restorer in Mandaluyong.

The dominant white color of the walls, drapes and shiny tiled floor is in direct contrast to the mahogany paint of the tables, chairs, benches and cabinets.

Ogie, Michelle and their daughter Leila moved to their four-bedroom Acropolis residence only last September, after giving up their townhouse on Boston Street in Cubao.

"We just felt we needed a bigger place," Ogie says. "We looked in other places, but when we saw this house, we liked it right away. It's charming and perfect for us. Believe it or not, we didn't have to change or renovate anything in this house. Nothing was repainted so we saved a lot of money. When we moved in, everything was okay."

However, the furnishings from their townhouse proved to be sparse when they moved to the bigger residence.

More space to fill

"Our old house was just half the size of this," Ogie says. "So when we transferred, we felt that we had to buy more things. Up to now, we're still in the process of furnishing the house. But I think it's just a matter of rearranging and adding a few pieces to enhance the overall look."

The main door of the two-story house ushers the guest into the living room, where a long wooden table and two long benches highlight the receiving area.

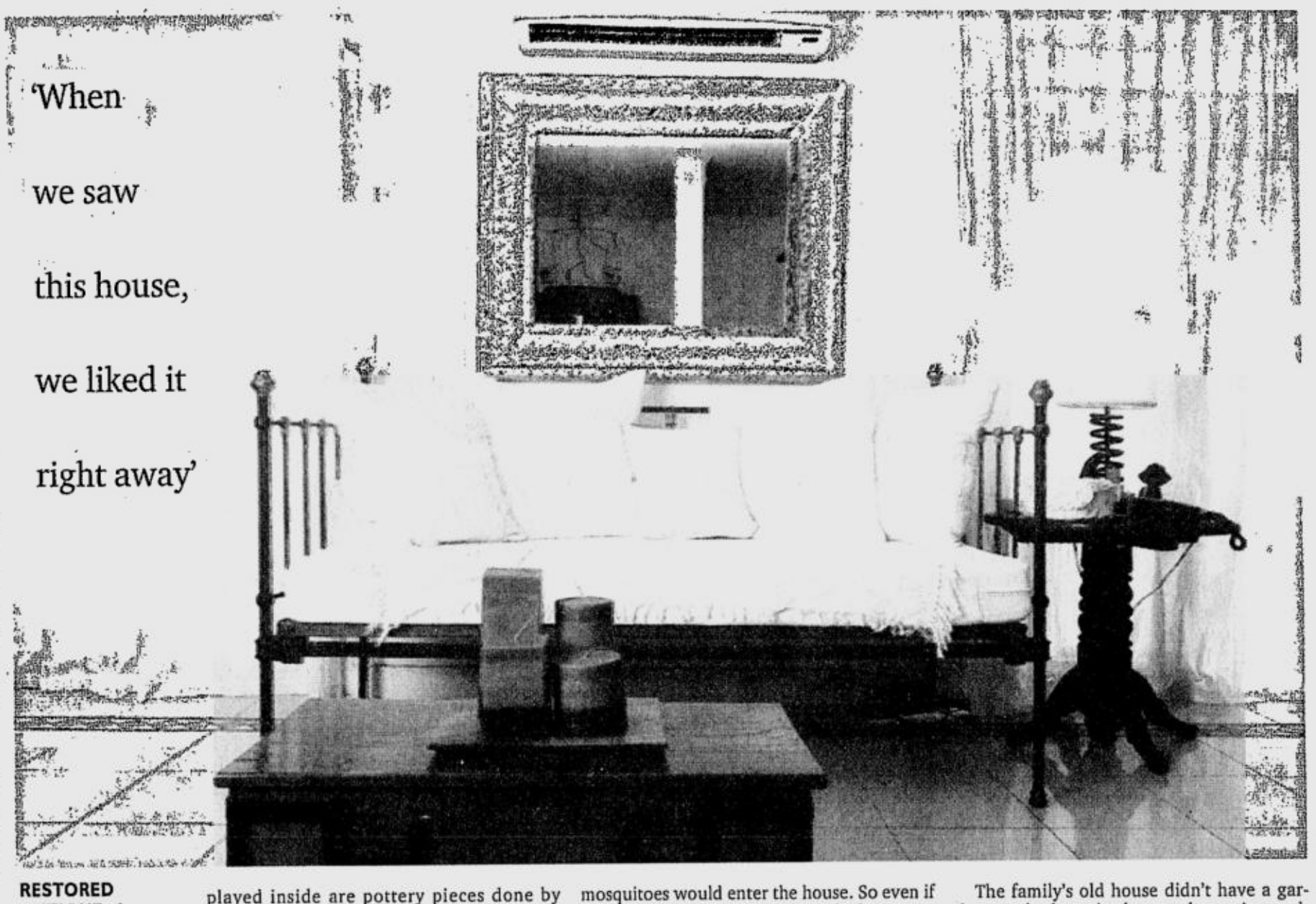
Laid out on top of the table is a woven T'boli fabric similar to those on a chest in the middle of the *sala* and on the dining table. A large decorative bamboo bowl and a glass candleholder are the centerpieces of the long table.

Ogie says the benches came from an antique shop and were given a new coat of varnish to match the long table.

From the long table, the guest gets a good view of the entire stretch of the *sala*. It is easy to appreciate the pleasant ambience of the house with its casual-traditional designs and fixtures.

In a corner is an old cabinet with a glass door given by Ogie's mom, Herminia. Displayed inside are pottery pieces done by Michelle, who took formal lessons from noted potter Jon Pettyjohn.

'When we saw this house, we liked it right away'



RESTORED ANTIQUE. An antique daybed has become a living room couch. A rectangular mirror with intricate aluminum borders hangs on the wall.

A restored daybed has been turned into a living room couch in white, including white throw pillows.

"We spotted it when it was about to be junked," Ogie recalls. "We knew it could be salvaged so we had it painted."

Beside the daybed are a small wooden table, which also serves as a phone stand, and a rocking chair.

"We bought the rocking chair for Michelle before she gave birth to Leila five years ago," Ogie says. "We placed it in Leila's room. But for some reason, Michelle never really got to use it."

Mom's contributions

The main piece in the sala is an old chest also from Ogie's mom, who likewise gave the three huge, red ceramic vases in the living room.

A huge rectangular mirror with intricate aluminum borders hangs on the living room wall.

"That was given to us by one of our *ninangs* during the wedding," according to Ogie. "Actually, we spotted it in this antique shop in Malate and had it reserved for us. Then it turned out our *ninang* also went there looking for her wedding gift to us. The owner of the shop told her we had that mirror reserved. She bought it and gave it to us."

The sala spills into the dining room, while the kitchen is in another area. The 10-seater wooden dining table has high-backed chairs with woven rattan seats and carved tops.

A section of the house has been turned into a viewing room. It has a huge television set and Ogie's CD collection. Leila spends a lot of time every day in this room, watching her favorite cartoon videos, especially "Tarzan."

"Leila has always been a major consideration when we watch a movie," Ogie points out. "We can't watch an adult film in theaters. If we want to see a good movie and we can't take her, we'd just wait for it on video. The last one we watched was 'Ice Age' at Rockwell."

Numerous paintings have yet to be hung and are still in bubble wraps. But already displayed in the sala are two works of Antipolo artists that Ogie has always patronized.

Dreading the bug

A glass sliding door in the dining area is kept permanently closed. Off-white roman shades cover the door blocking natural light from the backyard.

"We're so afraid of mosquitoes now," Ogie explains. "Since Michelle and Leila had dengue last year, we are almost paranoid that mosquitoes would enter the house. So even if Leila is just going to the garden, she has to use Off lotion."

The split-type air-conditioning unit in the living room is on continuously during daytime, especially now that Michelle is 5 months pregnant with their second baby.

"She always feels hot because it's summer that's why the aircon has to be on all the time," Ogie says. "There are days when she just likes to stay in our room, which is a little bit cooler than the sala."

A room on the ground floor has been turned into Michelle's workstation for her pottery, complete with a huge kiln where the glazed pots are burned. The kiln was ordered from New York. A bathtub holds the clay Michelle uses for her pottery.

The family's old house didn't have a garden, so the lawn in the new house is a welcome change, especially for Leila who has more space for playing.

The glass and steel windows beside the winding staircase allow sunlight to flow into the living room and the second floor area. From the stairs, one gets a view of some establishments on C-5.

"I really like this house," Ogie says. "I feel very productive when I'm here. Inside my music room, I finished my new album ('A Better Man'). I've written a lot of songs here. I've composed enough for my next album.

"In the morning, I sit in the living room and read the newspapers. I don't have to turn on the light. There's enough sunlight to keep the living room well-lighted."

A TRIO of tables in graduating sizes serves as an island between the foyer and the living room.

WOVEN CENTERPIECE. Laid out on top of the table is a woven T'boli fabric.

Sorting out your psychic dirt

From page F1

ness with; I mean those who go beyond your work and your bottom line, those who, shall I say, have the potential of going under your skin? And when they do enter your life, how do you know they have overstayed and are bound to turn into dirt any day now? Dirt you must sweep away but can't, so you end up moving along with unswept dirt? And what about the psychic dirt you don't want to sweep away because you hope that s/he amounts to a moderate dose of dirt, and one needs a healthy dose of dirt to live, right?

If it were possible to lead a most sanitized life, one would, I guess. But would that be living, would that be maturing? That would be fence-sitting, spectator sport.

I have a girlfriend who just made a confession to me. Still unattached after emerging from a relationship of many years ago, she said the last three years gave her contentment—she's at the top of her career, her family's fine, her comforts are pretty secure, her social life is vibrant. She concluded she didn't need a special relationship to complete her scorecard; she was, in the words of my dear friend **Joey Panlilio**, who quotes Jackie O, "emotionally self-sustained."

Then this year she met a man who, to cut the story short, was getting under her skin, a most special man with a special, albeit interesting and challenging, character. They come not only from two different countries, but also from highly different worlds, if not values.

"He could be a serial dater, for all we know," she told me, and yet she's allowing him to stay in her life. She's willing to forego contentment for what could be a summer of discontent.

You're opening the door and letting in someone who could turn out to be a psychic dirt, I will warn her, and add that I hope it'll be the healthy dose you need from day to day.

Gina's home

I don't know that all of the above would serve a function in my reader's life, so I have to return to the concrete and the practical—more of Gina's tips. She has adopted a unique corporate policy for the office for clutter-clearing. She gives her staff a day-off a year to be spent exclusively at home so they could sweep away their house clutter, and another day in the office, this time, solely for clearing away the files and other office litter. On the third day they say a prayer for good, fresh energy.

In her own home, I learned that Gina didn't use commercial cleaners and chemicals at all. She read "Clean House, Clean Planet" by Karen Logan (available on amazon.com) on how to clean your home the safe, nontoxic way, and had followed it for some time now. She said she'd saved a great deal of money because of it. (She even has a chart to show her comparative savings.)

Logan says we can live without the ammonia, the chlorine bleach, the alcohol and other chemicals we use to clean the house and wash the stains off our clothes. The nontoxic ingredients are even better, such as baking soda (deodorizer, natural cleaner and a mild abrasive), vegetable oil-based liquid soap as dirt remover, white distilled vinegar (deodorizer, cleaner), lemon (anti-grease), salt which absorbs grease and cleans copper.

To tick off her examples:

- Vanilla extract as air freshener
- Cornmeal as carpet spill absorber
- White distilled vinegar and a fragrance as fabric softener
- Club soda as glass cleaner
- Lemon, salt and flour as rust remover
- Salt, baking soda and water as oven cleaner

Logan's book gives all the details on how to mix, use and make such ingredients for practically all household chores, including removing stains and cleaning jewelry. You have to get the book if you want to apply them.

I also learned from Gina how many people had run their households and kept their gardens using nonchemicals—enough for a special series on Lifestyle Network starting September.

Funny, but as I was winding up this column, Joey called and I told him about my topic, going back to psychic dirt and how to keep or discard people, past and present, from our lives. As usual, this voracious reader, who serves up his common sense and wisdom with a chuckle, recalled to me a line he's read from Jean Moreau. Asked why she never bothered to have a face-lift, the famous actress said, and Joey reconstructs the quote: "Each morning when I look at the mirror and see the wrinkles, I remember each man who put them there."

So much then for fear of psychic dirt.

Daphne's day

CONGRATULATIONS and best wishes to "F's" **Daphne Oseña** and ABS-CBN News' **Patrick Paez**, who'll get married tomorrow in a quaint chapel out of town. May you thrive on the imperfection of marriage.

Green report from PDI

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

ENVIRONMENTAL agencies and advocates encourage business establishments and industries to adopt environmental policies in their operations. Some corporations are compelled to "clean their acts," so to speak, because their processes pollute the water, air, and even their area. They have to do something about that fast.

Other companies may claim their businesses have little or do not need to follow environmental practices because their operations do not cause pollution or violate environmental rules and regulations.

That may be so, but environmental problems here as well as in other countries are of such magnitude that it is important that everyone, business and household, big or small, chip in to ease things up. The general thinking is that: you may not cause pollution yourself, but as you are part of the community, you can help minimize or eradicate it by helping others in ways that are open to you.

This is the thinking adopted by the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, and this writer is happy to report that its environmental activities are among the green things she sees every day.

It all started some years ago when the company conducted a recycling contest among the different departments. The contest awarded prizes to the best and most innovative ideas which was incentive enough, but it also served to raise awareness among the staff that there were environmental problems that needed to be addressed by everyone.

More effective alternative

The next thing it did was to use soy-based ink as the cleaner, safer and more effective alternative to the usual chemical kinds.

From then on, the paper was to get more and more socially involved, especially in environmental matters. In the League of Corporate Foundations, in which it is a member, it serves in the Environmental Committee. This has led to corporate sponsorships and tie-ups with pro-environmental groups. Last year, PDI granted over P2 million worth of in-kind assistance to such organizations as Tour of the Fireflies, Lakbay Tribo, Clean and Green Foundation, Piso Para sa Pasig and Bantay Usok.

The paper also launched the Environmental Website Award for the Philippine Schools Cyberfair.

Advocacies are chosen according to particular projects being undertaken. Often, the project is one that is close to PDI's heart, one that it believes in fervently.

For instance, for the past two years, it has joined the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Phils. in its campaigns. Last year, the thrust was on the preservation of marine wildlife—"Fish for Survival."

Now being planned is a similar effort known as "Marine Protection and Environmental Legal Fund Campaign" about which we should be reporting more in the future.

Paper drive

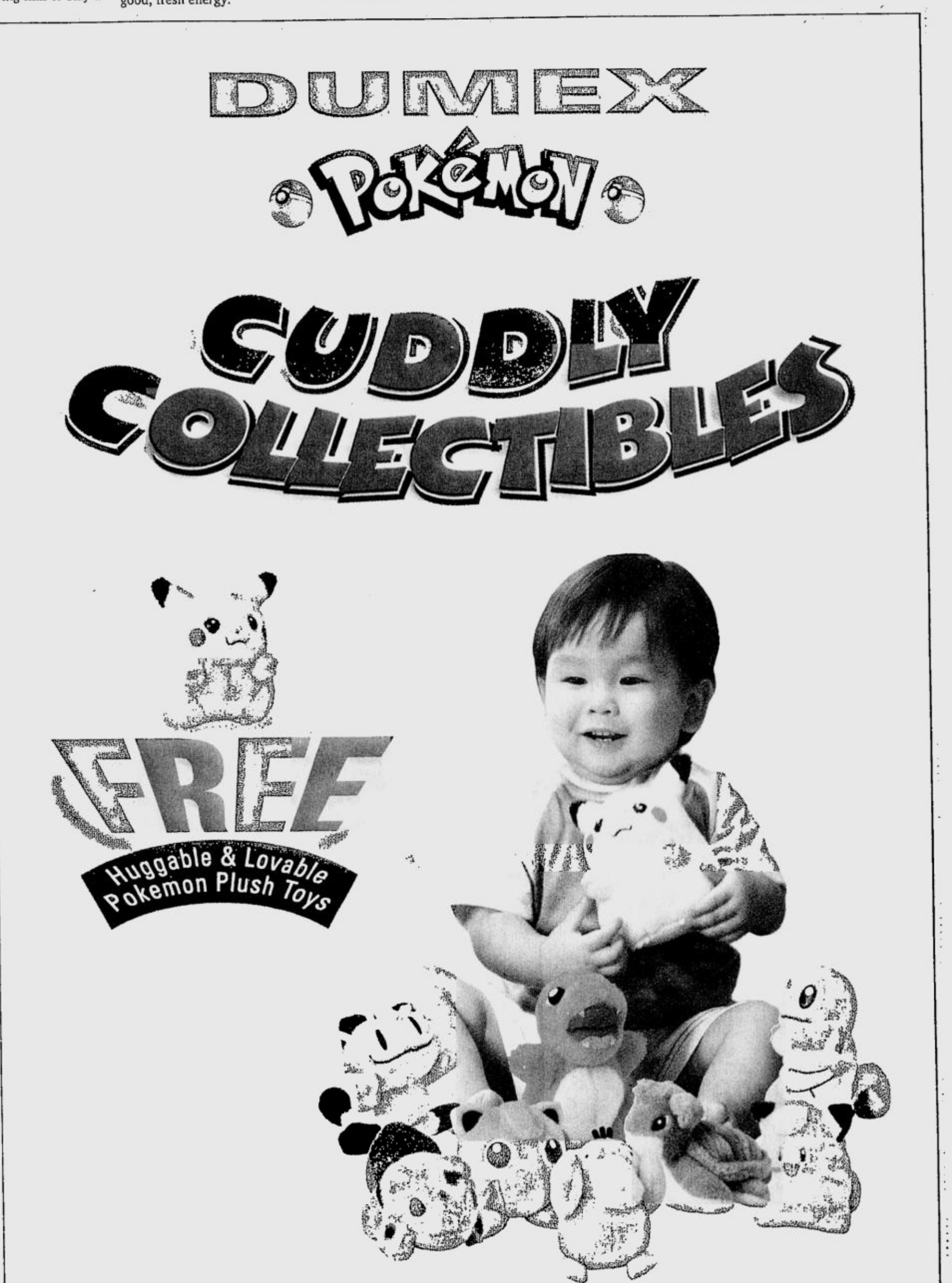
In its own backyard, PDI undertook a New Paper drive which collected, in just three months, 96,044.8 kg of old newspapers from 200 homes and institutions, an amount estimated to be equivalent to 1,824 trees. That number would otherwise have been cut for processing in paper mills, but by recycling the old newspapers, it saved the trees from the loggers' saws.

The League of Corporate Foundations adopted this New Paper drive during its CSR Week. In just one day, it collected over 860 kg of old papers. Also doing its bit on this occasion was Metrobank and its foundation, which mobilized 39 branches as drop-off points, collecting 3,000 kg as a result.

Jaime Cardinal Sin, Archbishop of Manila, endorsed the campaign, prompting 270 parishes in Manila to assist in its promotions.

When PDI was redesigned wherein the broadsheet became narrower by an inch, it proved not only to be cost-saving but tree-saving as well. It estimates that the new look launched last January uses 6.3 percent less newsprint, equivalent to six trees saved a day!

All these may sound like PDI is blowing its own horn. It may be, but for good reason. When one's resources are utilized to save even one tree or protect even one dolphin, that's something to rejoice about. And since the paper is committed to serve green advocacies in ways it knows best, then, of course, let those horns toot!



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May 12, 2002

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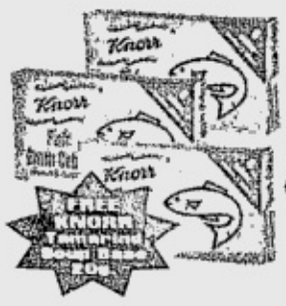

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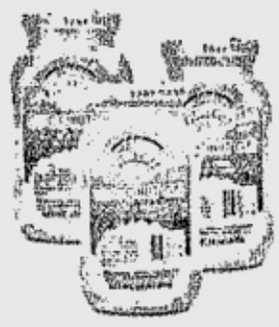

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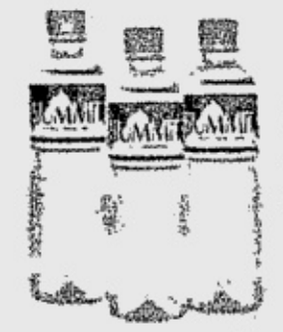

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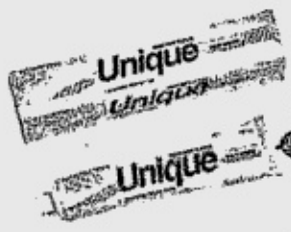

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PALMOLIVE
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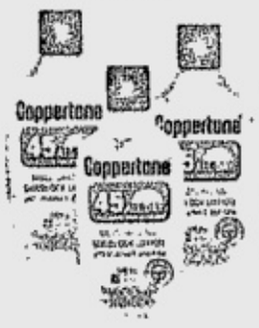

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Sunblock Protection
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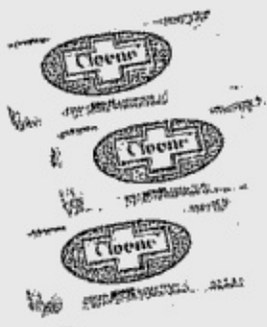

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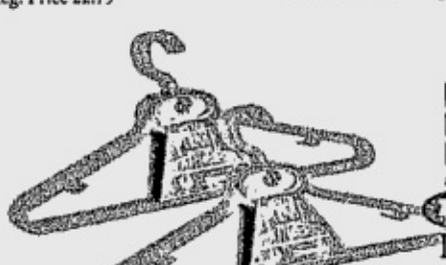

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Namfrel starts moves to impeach Tancangco

STORY ON PAGE A2

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

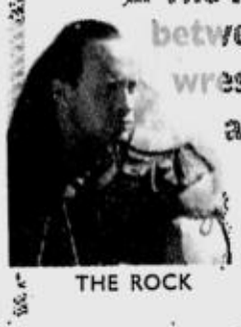
Gloria told: No shame in running

By Carlito Pablo

"IT'S nothing to be ashamed of." Liberal Party stalwarts, members of the Macapagal administration's working coalition in Congress, said yesterday that they saw nothing wrong with President Macapagal-Arroyo's reported plan to run for office in 2004.

GLORIA/A16

In Saturday Special



THE ROCK

- The Rock rolls between wrestling, movie and family life
- How stars beat the heat this summer

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph | Saturday, May 4, 2002 ★★ 80 pages / 8 sections / vol.17 / no. 145 P15 | website: www.inq7.net

Pols' summit: Junk Judicial Bar Council

By Juliet L. Javellana

AMENDING the Constitution is almost a done deal. It only remained for political parties taking part in the three-day political summit that began yesterday to introduce some of the amendments to the 1987 Constitution.

These are:

- Scrapping of the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC).
- Shift to a parliamentary form of government.
- Government subsidy to political parties.
- Removal of protectionist provisions in the Charter.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., who initiated the summit, had earlier written leaders of the various political parties to reach a preliminary consensus on the mode and scope of Charter change.

A draft declaration of the summit, attended by 21 national and regional political parties, said the JBC should be abolished for its "failure to bring forward good judges for appointment and promotion."

Reform of the justice system is one of the six items on the summit agenda. "The perception is that we have two types of law, one for the rich and one for the poor," the draft declaration said. "The perception is that, for the right price, a favorable outcome can be had from the justice system."

It said the main problem of the court system was lengthy proceedings and unpredictable results. "We must make our justice system swift, fair, clear and based on the laws," the draft declaration said.

The draft was prepared by a committee led by Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr., a member of the PDP-Laban, which boycotted the summit. Locsin said he attended the summit as an observer.

Batting for a shift from the presidential form to a parliamentary form of government, the draft declaration said: "There is a felt need to change the form of government to one that is more quickly responsive to changing needs and conditions."

In her keynote address, President Macapagal-Arroyo said a shift to a parliamentary system required several political reforms like modernizing the electoral system and subsidizing political parties.

Ms Macapagal said the subsidy would help reduce the reliance of political parties on dirty money and power brokers.

It was the Congressional Planning and Budget Department, a think tank of the House of Representatives, that recommended the removal of the Constitution's "protectionist economic provisions."

POLS/A16

BIG 4—President Macapagal, former President Fidel Ramos; Nacionalista Party president Salvador Laurel, Speaker Jose de Venecia—converge for dialogue and debate at the first-ever, three-day summit of 21 political parties. EDWIN BACASMAS

Gloria urges debate, not coups

DEBATES and not attempts at overthrowing the government, President Macapagal-Arroyo proposed to the political opposition in threshing out policy disagreements.

"In a living democracy, no group has the right to hold policy making hostage by threatening to overthrow the executive on every issue of policy disagreement," Ms Macapagal said in her keynote speech at the national political summit.

"Let us together end the episode of turbulence and threats," the President said at the forum which several groups, including the biggest opposition party, boycotted.

"Let us demonstrate our common commitment to good governance and reasoned public debate," she added.

She said it was time for political debates to be "driven by good faith and guided by the best intentions for our nation."

The President, however, could not resist taking a dig at the opposition for wishing her to fail from the start.

She said everyone doubted that she could contain the huge budget deficit she inherited from the Estrada administration.

"From day one, I committed myself to taming the fiscal monster. Everybody thought we wouldn't make it. The IMF (International Monetary Fund) thought we couldn't make it. Never mind the opposition or other groups opposing us," she said.

The President said she not only reduced the budget deficit, but

GLORIA/A16

Boycott a big mistake—Joe de V

By Christine Avendaño and Cynthia D. Balana

POLITICAL party leaders led by Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. yesterday said that Sen. Edgardo Angara should have taken his grievances against Malacañang before the All Political Parties Conference rather than allowing his party to boycott the summit.

"Ed made a big mistake," De Venecia told the INQUIRER, at the end of the opening ceremonies of the summit. "Even Sen. Blas Ople was reluctant (about the boycott of the summit by the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino) when I talked to him."

Aside from the LDP, the PDP-Laban of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel and the Reporma-Lapiang Manggagawa of former Executive Secretary Renato de Villa are boycotting the three-day summit.

The party-list group Bayan Muna also decided to skip the event to protest the disappear-

BOYCOTT/A16

HAIL to the World Press Freedom awardee, Geoffrey Nyarota, editor in chief of The Daily News in Zimbabwe. He receives his award from Unesco Director General Koichiro Matsuura in Malacañang in the presence of President Macapagal. EDWIN BACASMAS

Press freedom day: GMA out of tune

By Dona Pazzibugan and Christine Herrera

DO NOT restrict journalists' rights in the name of the war on terrorism and national security, the Unesco-sponsored meeting of the international media observing World Press Freedom Day urged governments at the close of its two-day forum yesterday.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo seemed out of tune with the conference's significance and intentions. In a speech, she told the journalist-delegates that the media should be "deeply involved" in the government's anti-terrorism campaign.

She said the media should help the government explain to the public the rationale of its actions.

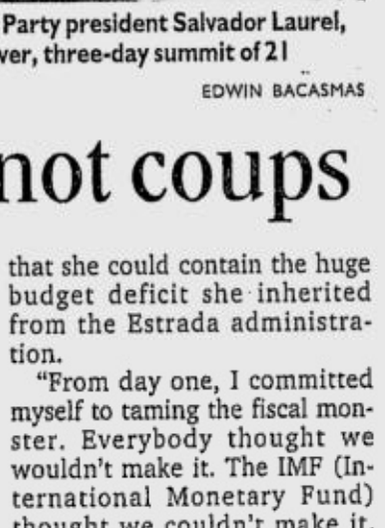
Instead of the media giving Abu Sayyaf terrorists undue publicity, its news reports should "most of all" contribute to "maintaining calm, sobriety, prudence and solidarity in our society."

She said she expects the media to help allay the public's fears of the all-out military operations she ordered to crush the Abu Sayyaf.

"Press freedom can also mean the freedom to report good news," she said during the luncheon she hosted for delegates from 120 countries.

"As a public servant, and

PRESS/A17



Gloria warms up to Eddie

By Dona Pazzibugan

HAVE they kissed and made up? Or is President Macapagal-Arroyo waging a very public campaign to woo former President Fidel Ramos over to her side? Or was she being sarcastic?

On two major occasions yesterday, the President went out of her way to praise Ramos, who has been linked to alleged plans to destabilize her administration.

At the opening rites of the national political

GLORIA/A16

Slain priest's Abu Sayyaf tormentor captured

By the PDI Mindanao Bureau

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—On the eve of the second death anniversary of hostage priest Fr. Rhoel Gallardo, policemen captured the Abu Sayyaf leader they said was a prime suspect in his abduction and death.

Officials said Salip Abdullah, alias Commander Sukarno Habib Yasin, was a founding member of the Abu Sayyaf bandit group and a key lieutenant of Abu Sayyaf chief Khadaffy Janjalani. With a P150,000 bounty on his head, he is wanted on 61 counts of kidnapping and more cases of murder, including that of the Claretian missionary who was found dead, together with three Claretian teachers, on May 3, 2000 in Basilan. ***(See related story on Page A14.)***

Abdullah, 46, was arrested after a police raid on a house in Purok Kulasi in the coastal village of Labangal in this city late Thursday. He resisted by locking himself in a cabinet and holding his own 2-year-old daughter hostage.

He surrendered after a few minutes, after Supt. Willie Dangane, who led the raiding team, negotiated with him. "Dangane, who is a Muslim, convinced him to surrender after several minutes of negotiation," said Senior Supt. Bartolome Baluyot, Central Mindanao police chief. Abdullah was arrested in the house where he lived since fleeing Basilan several months ago.

Baluyot told the INQUIRER the raid was part of the government's continuing crackdown on the terrorist group responsible for the April 21 Fitmart shopping mall bombing, which killed 15 people and injured more than 60 others. He did not say whether Abdullah is accused of participating in the deadly trio of bombings, but said "they are the terrorists orchestrating these bombings."

Baluyot said Abu Sayyaf leaders are seeking refuge in this city and elsewhere to escape a joint RP-US counter-terrorism exercise on Basilan.

Baluyot said that after

SLAIN/A17

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2002

Second FRONT PAGE

Namfrel starts moves to impeach Tancangco

By Blanche S. Rivera

AFTER MONTHS of making loud threats, the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) has finally come around to making good on its promise to have Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco booted out of the Commission on Elections.

Yesterday, Namfrel, the private election watchdog, began circulating a summary of its charges against Tancangco, who is likely to face impeachment in Congress.

Tancangco is former chair of the Comelec modernization committee and is an advocate of the controversial Voters Registration and Identification System (VRIS).

She was appointed to her post by ousted President Joseph Estrada and has been a thorn in the side of Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo, President Macapagal-Arroyo's appointee.

Jose Bernas, Namfrel chief counsel, said the summary of charges will be distributed to non-government organizations, schools and other civil society groups, and will be released through electronic mail as well.

Kompil, a broad alliance of civil society groups, will take care of the "political actions" needed to push for Tancangco's impeachment in Congress, Bernas said.

He said Namfrel, which will provide the technical support for the impeachment, has been assured of legislators' support in the case against Tancangco.

He said Namfrel and Kompil have been meeting with members of Congress to discuss her impeachment, but he declined to name the representatives.

The summary of charges is the prelude to a signature campaign to be spearheaded by Namfrel to "pressure members of Congress" into supporting Tancangco's impeachment. The signature campaign will be launched next week.

Namfrel has charged Tancangco with inefficiency and gross inexcusable negligence, and betrayal of public trust for allegedly wasting millions of pesos in modernization funds that are unaccounted for.

In its charge sheet, Namfrel said Tancangco failed to implement the automation of the vote count in the May 2001 elections, showed "unjustified bias" for a multibillion-peso consortium that won the bidding for the VRIS, and incurred illegal expenses for the precinct-mapping project.

Citing Commission on Audit reports, Namfrel said Tancangco used P282 million of the P500-million budget for precinct mapping last year, but only 3.3 percent of the maps prepared were considered to be in order by the Comelec elections and barangay affairs bureau.

Tancangco also allegedly authorized the release of P41 million to non-bonded employees and failed to account for P56 million that she released supposedly in conjunction with the precinct-mapping project.

The controversial commissioner also caused the Comelec to acquire P46.4-million worth of Polaroid camera equipment in 1999 for the coverage of the elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, even if there would be no subsequent use for the cameras.

"This is no longer a question of facts—she has already admitted that she committed the offenses attributed to her. It's now a question of whether they were against the law or not," said Bernas, adding that Namfrel has enough evidence to support its charges.

Bernas said, however, it was still "difficult to be confident about Namfrel's numbers in Congress," because of the many parties that the group and Kompil are dealing with.

He also said the rules for impeachment have been made more complicated and tedious since the ouster of former President Estrada.

Where before only 70 signatures from representatives were enough to send the impeachment complaint to the Senate, the House committee on justice would now have to approve the complaint first before it is discussed in plenary session and then forwarded to the Senate.

"It's not easy. If it is dismissed, we have to wait another year to file another impeachment complaint, so we want to be sure," Bernas said.

Tancangco, for all her feistiness, has continued to maintain that she done nothing wrong but was only looking out for the interest of the voters.

COMELEC Commissioner Tancangco: Battle shifts halls of Congress. JESS YUSON

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Ternate war games canceled over crash

Flight training over Metro triggers alarm

By Martin P. Marfil
and Cynthia D. Balana

THE CRASH of the F-5 jet fighter forced the military to cancel a Balikatan 02-2 exercise scheduled in Ternate, Cavite yesterday.

Instead, Filipino-American troops conducted a civil-military operation in Mabalacat, Pampanga to show "reverence" for the dead.

In the Senate, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon asked top defense and military officials to explain why Metro Manila airspace was being used for the Balikatan training flights.

Biazon's statement came in the wake of several complaints from the affluent residents of Forbes Park, Magallanes Village, Dasmariñas Village and Moonwalk Subdivision.

According to Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta, the fighter pilot was scheduled to participate in the Marine landing exercises in Cavite.

"Because of this, we have to cancel the Balikatan today in Ternate but we have conducted instead a civil-military operation outreach activity . . . we have sent doctors, dentists and engineers t the area to clean the area and give whatever assistance (is needed)," Mabanta, the head of the AFP's public information office, said in a press briefing.

Mabanta said that Air Force investigators are looking into three factors in connection with the crash.

"We are looking into three factors, the human side of it, the material—meaning the equipment—and . . . (it could be) environmental, it might be related to the wind factor or to the weather," he said.

The F-5 jet exploded and crashed on Thursday morning into a school compound, killing its pilot—Capt. Daniel Policarpio—and wounding at least 11 persons on the ground.

The crash raised questions about the use of the airfield for the joint military exercise.

But Mabanta, the AFP public information chief, said it was like saying that the Ninoy Aquino International Airport should not be used because people live near it.

He added that Balikatan 02-2 would last only until May 6 and that Clark is an international airport used by commercial planes.

All F-5 jets had been grounded and Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor, in a statement, was quoted saying that he had directed the PAF aircraft accident investigation team headed by Lt. Col. Lorenzo Gumba to meticulously explore all possible angles related to the crash.

"No conclusive statement could yet be published pending the result of the investigation," the PAF press statement said.

Biazon took up the cudgels for Metro Manila residents who expressed concern over the training flights following the crash of the fighter jet in Mabalacat, Pampanga. The crash caused massive destruction to property.

It was the second time in a week that a PAF aircraft had crashed during the Balikatan joint military exercises between Philippine and American military forces.

"I have been receiving both complaints and inquiry calls from the residents of these areas," he said.

Biazon said he was at the Bonifacio Naval Base Wednesday and witnessed flights of US helicopters flying in formation at treetop and rooftop levels seemingly doing aerial maneuvers.

The helicopters hovering were apparently flights of the US Chinook and CH 57 heavy helicopters.

According to Biazon, the fear of these residents was understandable because these types of helicopters have a history of accidents, especially the medium helicopters, Chinook.

Biazon said that using the airspace over populated areas in Metro Manila could endanger the lives of many people, notwithstanding the noise being emitted during these training flights.

He said that training flights of low flight patterns with treetop and rooftop altitudes should be conducted in open air spaces over Clark Air Base in Pampanga, Crow Valley or the open air spaces around Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija.

Biazon also cited the incident in Cabanatuan City where a PAF aircraft crashed into a residential area.

"The Department of National Defense must take action relative to these succession of aircraft crashes and explosions related to the Balikatan 02-2 joint military training exercises to ensure the safety of the people especially in densely populated areas," he added.

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FINAL FLIGHT. Lilith Policarpio, widow of Capt. Daniel Policarpio, carries her husband's cap following the arrival of the body at the Villamor Airbase in Pasay City. ROGER MARGALLO

RICAFORTE

JIMENEZ

Ricaforte to appear in 'America's Most Wanted'—NBI chief

By Philip C. Tubeza

AT LEAST we'll get to see her on cable TV.

National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco said yesterday wanted fugitive Yolanda Ricaforte will be featured on the American syndicated TV show, "America's Most Wanted."

Wycoco said he is leaving for the US next week to guest on the show when it features Ricaforte, who is wanted in this country for plunder in the same case as her former patron, deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Ricaforte fled the Philippines just steps ahead of the popular uprising that toppled Estrada early last year. She had been spotted in Los Angeles, but has since dropped out of sight.

She was Estrada's alleged auditor who kept track of the collections from illegal gambling that came his way.

While in the US, Wycoco said he would meet with Federal Bureau of Investigation officials to discuss, among other things, the Bush administration's official position on Rep. Mark Jimenez, another former Estrada crony.

The US wants Jimenez, who won a Manila congressional seat in last year's elections, extradited to face charges of tax evasion, mail fraud and making illegal contributions to the Democratic Party, among other raps.

"I'll be there to (find out) what they want—their position (on these extradition cases)," Wycoco said, referring to the Philippines' request to have another Estrada crony, Charlie "Atong" Ang, extradited to this country.

Ang is in a Las Vegas jail, fighting Philippine government efforts to have him returned to face plunder raps with Estrada as well.

Wycoco said he will also talk with the FBI about cases involving "money laundering and mutual legal assistance."

Wycoco's two-week visit starting on May 8 comes after FBI Director Robert Mueller visited the Philippines recently.

Besides meeting with the FBI, Wycoco said he would also meet with US justice department officials.

Docs prescribe 'aircon' cell for Lumbao

By TJ Burgonio

OH, THE TRAVAILS of arrested persons associated with deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Yesterday, Philippine National Police doctors recommended that arrested Estrada supporter Ronald Lumbao be confined in an air-conditioned detention cell, following his release from a weeklong confinement for hypertension at the PNP General Hospital.

Lumbao is chair of the People's Movement Against Poverty (PMAP), the mass-based organization still strongly supportive of the ousted Estrada.

Dr. Jun Catly, chief of the PNP hospital's department of medicine, said Lumbao should be held in an air-conditioned room for health reasons.

"He complained a lot about the heat. His blood pressure tends to rise because of the heat," Catly said.

Lumbao, who is facing rebellion charges for allegedly instigating last year's Labor Day siege of Malacañang, had a spacious hospital room that came with an air-conditioner and a refrigerator.

"He was comfortable here. We made this arrangement so that his blood pressure wouldn't rise," Catly told reporters. "I know his detention room has an air-conditioner," he added.

Chief Supt. Robert Delfin, head of the police Intelligence Group (IG) that captured Lumbao, said he would study the doctor's recommendation.

But following his release from hospital yesterday, Lumbao was taken to a tightly guarded holding room at IG headquarters, not to the cramped dark detention cell he was held in after his arrest on Friday last week.

Lumbao, however, has filed a motion with the Manila regional trial courts seeking his transfer from the IG detention room, which he described as "a dungeon."

The PMAP leader, who eluded arrest for nearly a year, was taken to the PNP hospital the night of his capture after his blood pressure rose dangerously high.

Yesterday, Dr. Catly said, "He was discharged with a stable blood pressure of 120/90. He was supposed to be discharged Thursday but the IG detention room wasn't ready."

The other day, Jinggoy Estrada, the former president's son and co-accused in plunder charges, asked the Sandiganbayan to allow him to be transferred to the San Juan Medical Center due to rectal bleeding.

If granted, this would be the fifth time Jinggoy would leave confinement at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center for health reasons.

LUMBAO

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WASHINGTON HEARING

US reiterates kidnap policy: No ransom

WASHINGTON—Senior US officials on Thursday firmly restated their policy of refusing to pay ransoms to kidnappers, despite new fears for the lives of two Americans held by radical Muslim guerrillas in Basilan province.

Two state department officials were questioned in a congressional hearing on reports in the Washington Times last month that the US government had helped facilitate a $300,000 payment of private funds to Abu Sayyaf rebels holding Martin and Gracia Burnham.

"The policy of the United States government is that we make no concessions and we don't pay ransom," said Peter Bergin, director of the state department's bureau of diplomatic security.

Bergin told the international operations subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations committee however that there was an element of the policy which was classified, and could only be shared with senators in closed session.

"I'm not aware of any payment, ma'am," Bergin told California Sen. Barbara Boxer, who had a constituent, Guillermo Sobero, killed by the Abu Sayyaf last year.

His colleague, Dianne Andruch, deputy assistant secretary of state for Overseas Citizens Services, declined to comment on the Washington Times report, saying there had been a lot of "misinformation" in the press over the hostage crisis.

The Philippines earlier Thursday restated its own no-ransom policy after the Abu Sayyaf warned that it would no longer negotiate with officials on the plight of the Burnhams, who are Christian missionaries.

The couple, along with Filipina nurse Edibora Yap, are held in the southern island of Basilan.

They are the last hostages left from the Abu Sayyaf kidnapping spree launched last May. The Abu Sayyaf gunmen have killed a dozen Filipinos along with Sobero.

In Manila, Sen. Blas Ople yesterday said the threat of Abu Sabaya, the spokesperson of the Abu Sayyaf, to behead the American hostages was just a bluff although government should not take him lightly.

In a press conference, Ople urged the military to take precautions in the rescue efforts to ensure the safety of the three hostages.

Ople advised the Armed Forces of the Philippines not to lose their head over the taunts of Sabaya that the bandits were equal to the task of defending themselves against the government forces and their US allies in the Balikatan exercises.

In a recent radio interview, Sabaya said the continued captivity of the hostages and the failure of the Philippine military and the US military advisers to rescue their hostages was a "great embarrassment" for them.

Sabaya also taunted the military start "looking for their (hostages) bodies."

The threat was answered by a brusque reaction from US forces undergoing training in the country.

Malacañang also tried to downplay it, saying it was a matter of policy not to respond to statements of terrorists.

Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta, AFP spokesperson, however, said the military was still verifying the radio report if the threat indeed came from Sabaya.

Ople said he has not given up his hope that the hostages would soon be released unharmed.

"I have faith in the strength and capability of the military rescue forces in crushing the Abu Sayyaf in due time," Ople said.

"My worry is that unless a blunder-free commando operation is mapped out, the hostages will be exposed to grave danger," he added.

The senator also cautioned the military against playing into the hands of the Abu Sayyaf and urged it to bide its time until the opportunity to strike back comes. ***AFP with report by Cynthia D. Balana***

6 suspected terrorists nabbed in Pangasinan

By TJ Burgonio

POLICE and military personnel have arrested at least six suspected terrorists in raids on an Islamic school in Pangasinan and a training camp in Tarlac, according to police reports.

The suspects—Dawud Muslim del Rosario Santos, Pio Abagne de Vera, Marcelo Cenar Egil, Allan Barlagdaton, Reendo Cain Dellos and Angelito Trinidad—are undergoing interrogation to see if they have links to the al-Qaida terror network of Osama bin Laden.

Seized from the six were a .22-cal. revolver, a .45-cal. pistol, a shotgun, night vision binoculars, military uniforms and documents showing that one of their alleged leaders, Ahmad Santos, received training from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Mindanao.

Agents of police anti-terrorist Task Force Sanlahi, under Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal, and members of the Pangasinan police force and the Army's Intelligence Service Group rounded up the six during a raid on the Madrasah Islamic School in Barangay Malag, Anda town, at around 11 p.m. Thursday.

The suspects said they were Muslim converts and were radio correspondents of the Fi Sabilillah Da'Awah and Media Foundation, which is reportedly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

But officials said the suspects were members of a local terror group, noting that two of their alleged colleagues were the armed men who were stopped by police from terrorizing Tarlac City on May 1, Labor Day. One of the two, Khalid Amir, was killed in a shootout with police.

About two hours after the raid on the Islamic school, police and military operatives swooped down on the school's alleged training camp in Barangay San Clemente, a mountainous village in Tarlac, and arrested several other persons.

The number and identities of the second set of suspects were not immediately known.

Recovered from this group were two M-14 rifles, one M-16 rifle, four grenades, five rifle grenades, detonating cords, ingredients used in the manufacture of explosives and sophisticated surveillance gadgets.

Belmes, 51

WILFREDO O. Belmes of Barangay Del Pilar, Makati City, died last Thursday at the age of 51.

He is survived by his children Kristina, Guada and Winnie.

The body now lies at the Rizal Funeral Home on Cementina Street, Pasay City. Burial will be on Sunday at 10 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Park.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, May 4, 2002
5th Week of Easter

1st Reading: **Acts 16:1-10**
Gospel: **Jn 15:18-21**

Jesus said to his disciples, "If the world hates you, remember that the world hated me before you. This would not be so if you belonged to the world, because the world loves its own. But you are not of the world since I have chosen you from the world; because of this the world hates you.

Remember what I told you: the servant is not greater than his master; if they persecuted me, they will persecute you, too. Have they kept my teaching? Will they then keep yours? All this they will do to you for the sake of my name because they do not know the One who sent me."

Commentary

"The world hates you!" The "world" refers to the spirit that says: "People and all created things are there to be acquired, possessed, used and controlled for my benefit." It is a religion and a way of life. If you belong to the club: "Welcome. Maybe we can work together. If you can help me to get more than my share, I'll make sure there'll be something in it for you." The Spirit of God, on the contrary, says: "People and all created things are there to be delighted in and nurtured, shared with gratitude and reverence for the good of all." Those who serve God are a threat to the servants of mammon. Mammon says, "Us and them." God says, "You are all brothers and sisters." Mammon says, "Defend what you've got." God says, "Share what you've been given."

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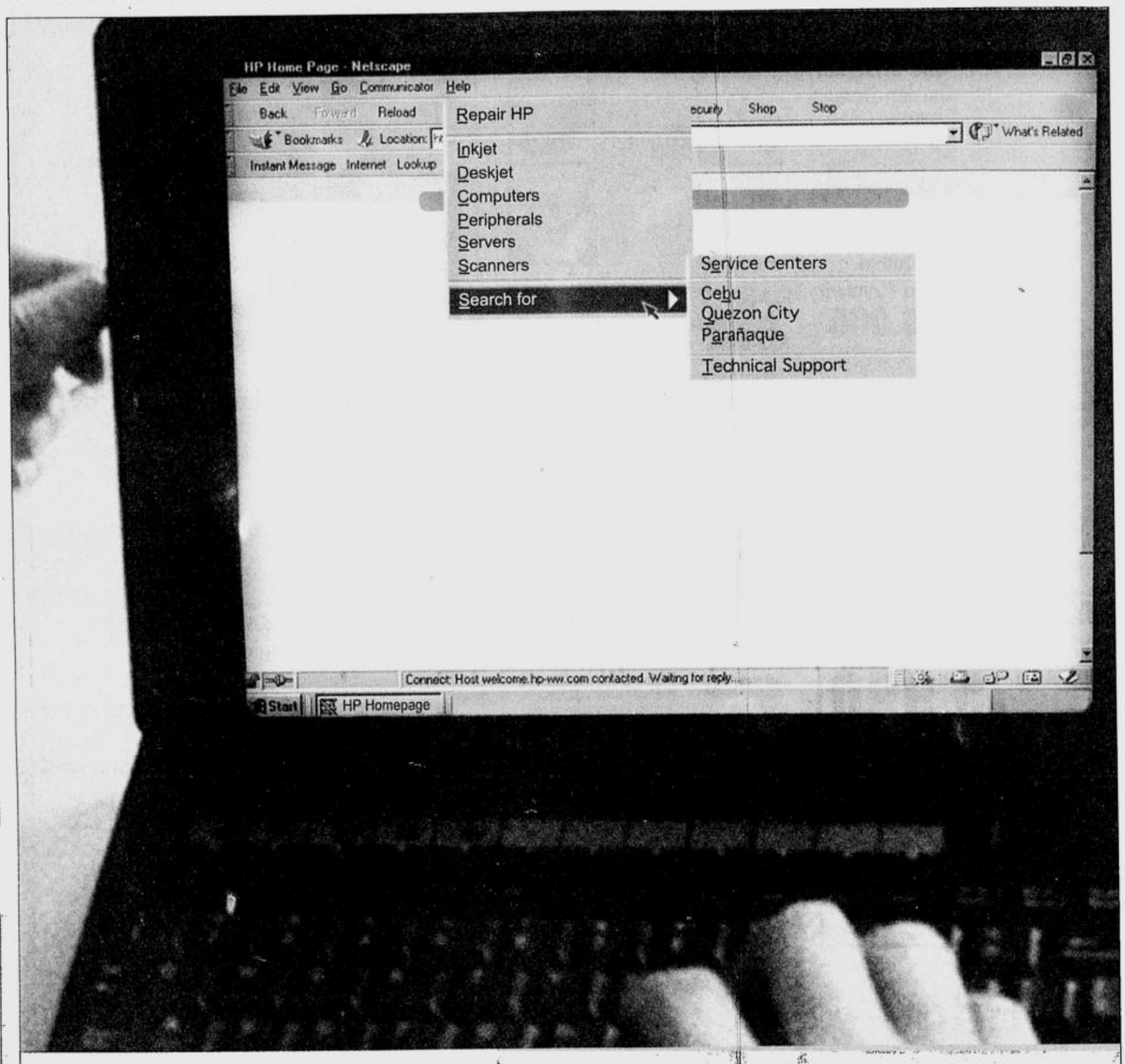

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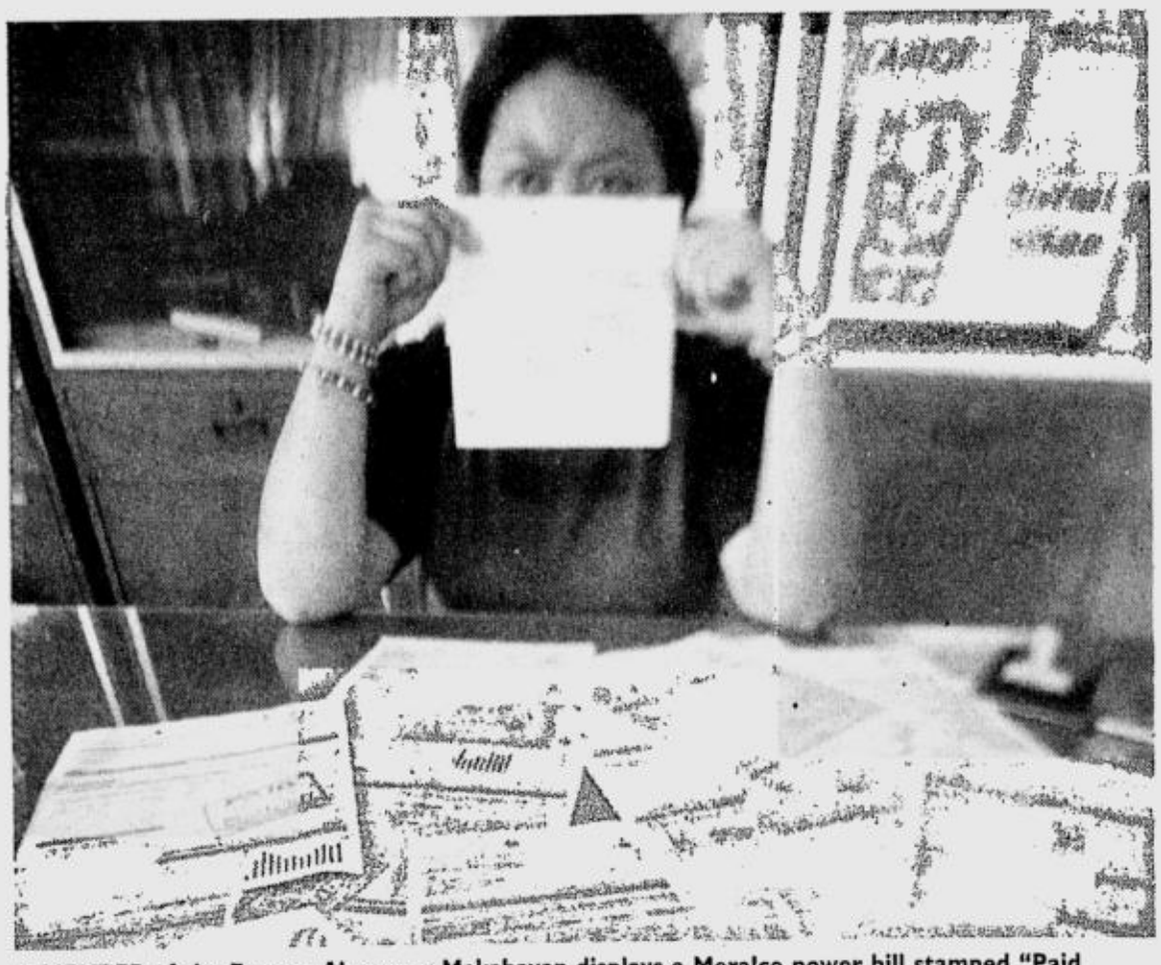


A MEMBER of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan displays a Meralco power bill stamped "Paid Under Protest" during the launching of a campaign against the planned power rate hike and the PPA. JOAN BONDOC

Joint Congress resolution urged to suspend controversial PPA

By Cynthia D. Balana

ALARMED by the mounting complaints about the high cost of electricity, Sen. Blas Ople yesterday proposed a joint congressional resolution that would suspend the Power Purchasing Adjustment (PPA) component in electricity bills.

In a press conference, Ople said the minority in the Senate would file a resolution on Monday abolishing the levy. A counterpart measure will be filed in the House by Rep. Carlos Padilla, he said.

"This levy is onerous and illegal on its face and should therefore be abrogated," Ople said.

He said a congressional review was in order because a presidential committee formed six months ago to review the PPA has defaulted in its task.

"Congress should step in as a matter of urgency to extend emergency relief to the consuming public," the senator said.

He said the PPA was an unjust levy as clearly shown during the public hearings held by the Energy Regulatory Commission on the petition of the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) to raise its rates.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said the Senate leadership will support initiatives to relieve the people of the PPA burden.

Drilon said the scrapping of the PPA was debated upon during deliberations on the privatization of the National Power Corp. (Napocor).

As a result of privatization, the national government absorbed the costs of the independent power contracts of Napocor.

But in the process of eliminating the PPA, Drilon said Congress should consider the contractual obligations entered into by the government.

"Can the government afford to do this? Ultimately, this will be passed on to taxpayers. The budget deficit will balloon," Drilon said.

He said Congress must carefully review other options to pay for the financial obligations of Napocor.

"I want to see what these initiatives are, but certainly scrapping the PPA may be popular but it might not be feasible because these are contractual obligations," he said.

Sen. John Osmeña said he was the first to question the levy as early as three years ago.

Osmeña said that in his original proposal, he suggested that the Department of Finance simply collect a smaller amount for the PPA over a longer period of time.

"So instead of collecting P1.40 over eight years, collect 40 centavos over 25 years. That's the arithmetic there. It's that simple," Osmeña said.

He said Congress would need to amend the law to extend the PPA levy payment to 25 years.

Want legal advice? Just dial 521-Nani

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando Perez yesterday launched another government call center, but with a tinge of political color.

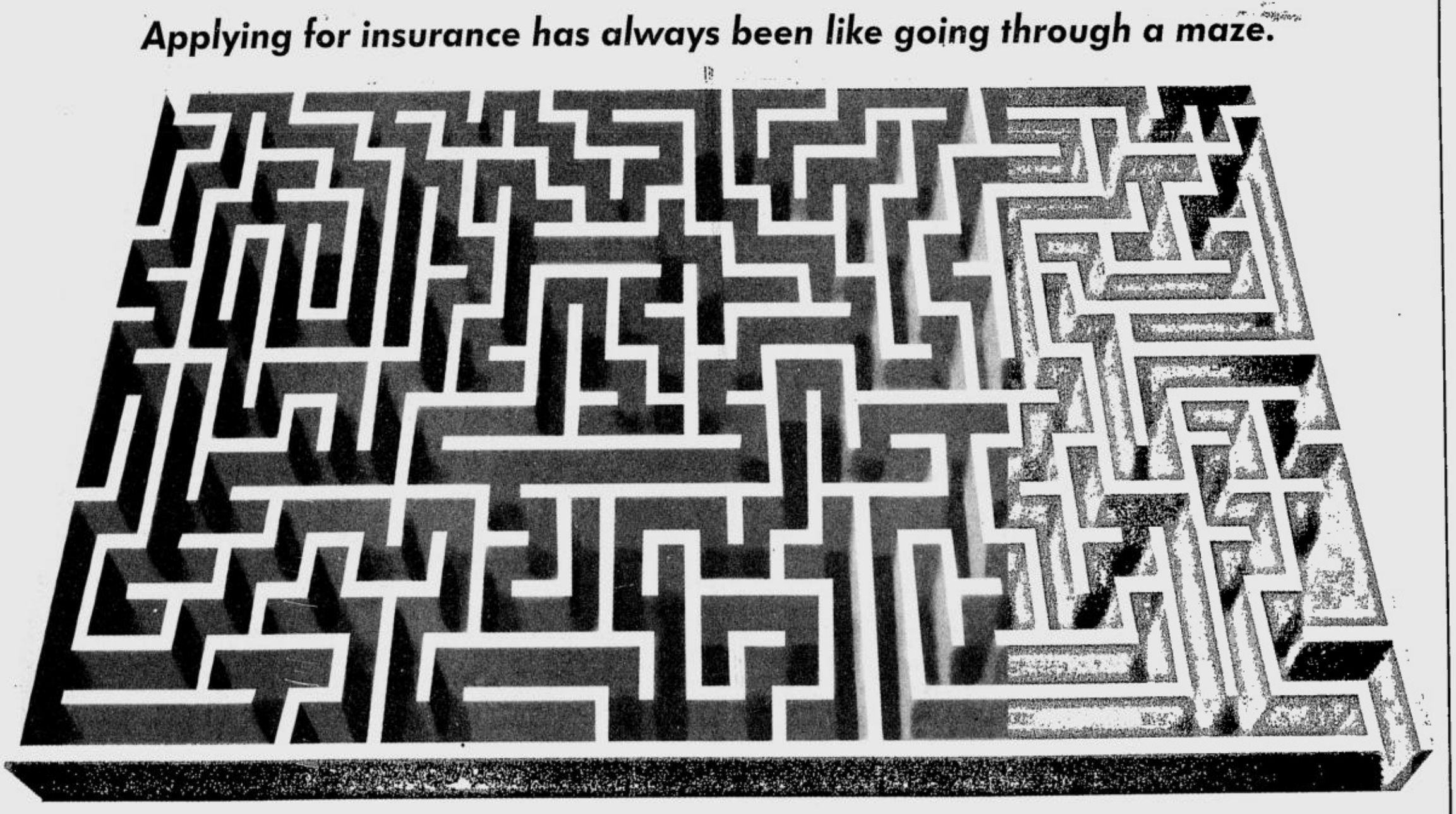
Dubbed "Kaibigan," the call center will receive and entertain calls from any part of the country toll free for any query on legal matters or if one seeks legal assistance, reports a crime or files a complaint.

Compared to the emergency numbers 166 and Streetwatch 117, the justice department's round-the-clock call center has the secretary's signature on it.

To call, one must dial 521-Nani (the equivalent numbers 6264 on your cellular phone's keypad) when calling anywhere in Metro Manila, or 1-800-5216264 from the provinces. Nani is Perez's nickname.

But Perez was quick to deny insinuations that the call center was part of a larger political agenda: his reported plan to run again for the Senate in 2004.

"No, I am not thinking of 2004. If I had thought of running (for the Senate), I would have done that in the last election," Perez said. "Besides, campaigning is not allowed at this time for one could be liable for electioneering," he added. ***Michael Lim Ubac***



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OPINION

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An improbable hero

EDITORIAL

THE CLIMAX of the Unesco international conference on terrorism and media in Manila was the conferment yesterday of the Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize on Geoffrey Nyarota, the courageous editor of the independent newspaper, the Daily News, in Zimbabwe.

Nyarota received the award in ceremonies held at Malacañang Palace, signifying the value this country has accorded to press freedom as a basic element of democracy. The prize, conferred by Unesco, honors journalists who dedicate their lives to the practice of their profession. It was named after Guillermo Cano, the Colombian journalist who was killed by assassins of Colombia's drug cartels, in the course of his paper's campaign against drug-related terrorism.

Nyarota is still alive despite the harassment his paper and its staff have had to endure from the government of President Robert Mugabe. But he faces arrest upon his return to Harare. Two of his reporters have already been arrested on charges of criminal defamation for writing stories showing that government officials had rigged the March elections that kept Mugabe in power.

Unesco Director General Koichiro Natsuura has called on the government of Zimbabwe to respect freedom of the press, drop the charges against the two reporters and stop harassing Nyarota. But the appeal is likely to fall on deaf ears. Mugabe's government has slapped on the press draconian legislation that punishes press reports about venalities in government on the flimsy grounds of protecting the "privacy" of officials.

The Manila conference of Unesco was held in the context of media's difficulties in covering news in an atmosphere of terrorism after the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States. The Sept. 11 events introduced new dimensions to threats to press freedom. But the award given to Nyarota shows another face of terrorism: terror unleashed by a government which is widely condemned as corrupt, intolerant of an independent press and lacking a popular mandate after having stolen the elections.

In Zimbabwe, where most of the press is controlled by the government, the Daily News sticks out like a sore thumb. Nyarota is a humble man who does not cut a heroic figure. And yet he has survived a series of government-instigated terror and violence. The government has charged him for publishing articles exposing corruption and human rights abuses. Nyarota says his stories are airtight, but the government "wants all the press and, indeed, all Zimbabweans to be reduced to a level of subservience so that we accept whatever it tells us."

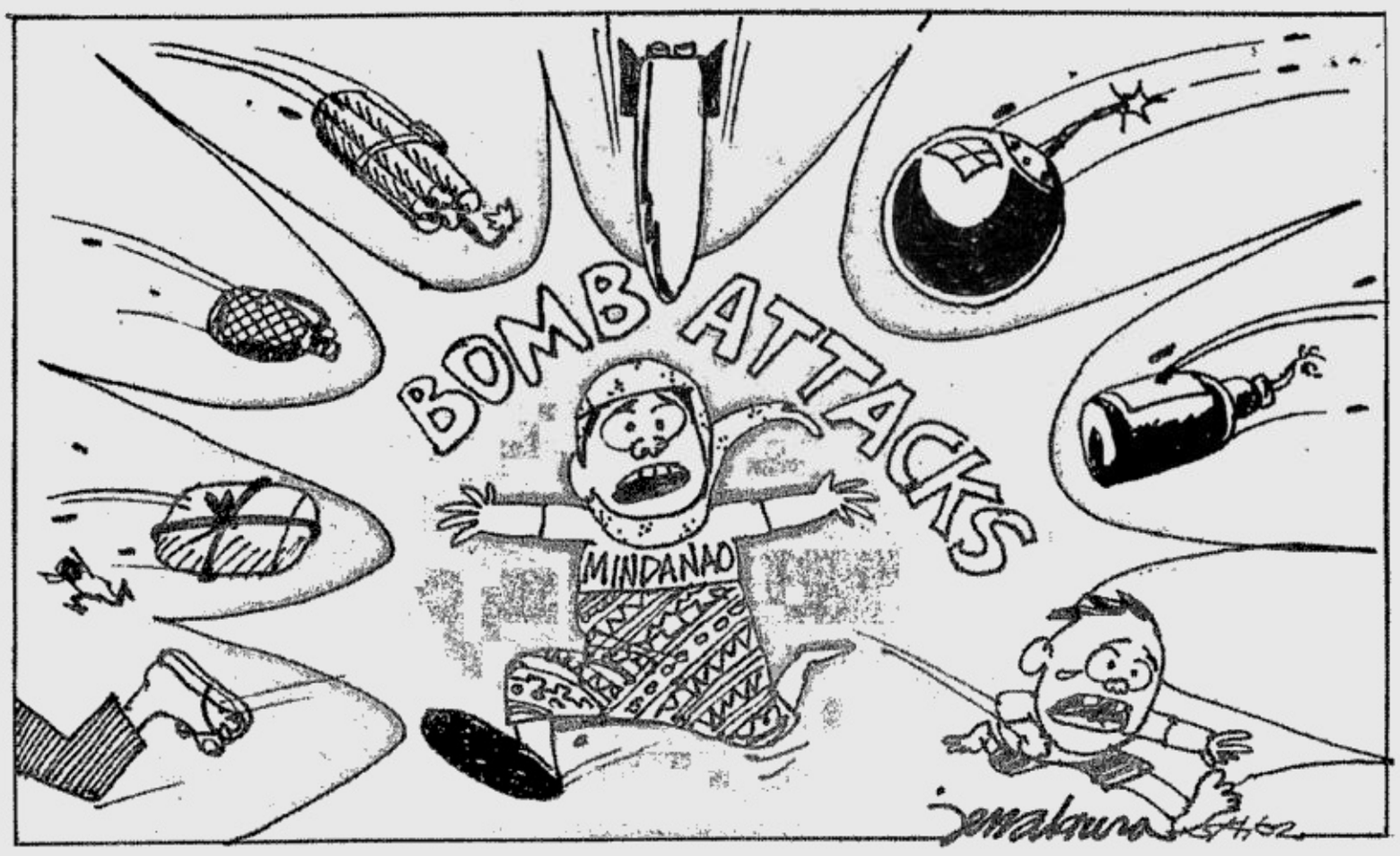
"We reject that," he firmly adds, his words echoing the defiance of the alternative press during the Marcos dictatorship. In Zimbabwe, violence against the press is part of the intimidating landscape in which independent journalists must operate. Against this backdrop, Nyarota has demonstrated that an independent newspaper has a constituency among Zimbabweans. Founded in 1999, the Daily News has become the biggest seller in Zimbabwe, outselling the government-controlled Herald.

The Daily News gained dominance despite the government's terror attacks. Nyarota has not only received death threats. In April 2000, the newspaper's offices were bombed, and the government did not carry out any investigation. In January 2001, bombs destroyed the paper's printing presses. But despite these attacks, the paper has not missed a single issue.

Nyarota never expected to be at the center of the struggle for a free press in Zimbabwe. Neither has he sought a martyr's role. "I never thought that my journalistic career would take me to this present situation," he says. "I started off wanting to write about cars, not politics."

Ironically, he started his journalistic career as one of the first black reporters at the Herald during the campaign against white minority rule in the former Rhodesia led by Mugabe. The elections of 1980 brought Mugabe and his party to power and put Zimbabwe under black majority rule. While working as editor of a state-owned paper, the Bulawayo Chronicle, in Zimbabwe's second largest city, he exposed a scandal in the allocation of scarce cars to government ministers who then sold them at considerable profit. The series forced the resignation of five Cabinet ministers, but it also led to Nyarota's dismissal as editor, launching him on the path of adversarial journalism relative to the Mugabe regime.

The Zimbabwe independent press is battling state terrorism against the media. It is a more menacing form of terrorism than pressure and restrictions imposed by governments in the coverage of news related to the US-led war against terrorism. Nyarota's well-deserved award should galvanize international public opinion against the continued repression of the press in Zimbabwe.



Criticism of official conduct

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE FREEDOM of the people to criticize official conduct was first laid down by the Supreme Court in the celebrated case of US v. Bustos, 37 Phil. 731, where Justice George A. Malcolm wrote:

"The interest of society and the maintenance of good government demand a full discussion of public affairs. Complete liberty to comment on the conduct of public men is a scalpel in the case of free speech. The sharp incision of its probe relieves the abscesses of officialdom. Men in public life may suffer under a hostile and unjust accusation; the wound may be relieved by the balm of a clear conscience. A public official must not be too thin-skinned with reference to comment upon his official acts."

The reason for this rule is obvious. It keeps the public official on his toes as a responsible servant of the people. If he knows that the people are looking over his shoulder and watching his every move in the discharge of his duties, he is likely to be careful lest he be caught sleeping on the job or with his hand in the till. Fear of public censure, if not worse, is a deterrent to improper conduct. Without such fear, the public official will tend to disregard the interests of the public and ignore its displeasure.

During the authoritarian reign of Ferdinand Marcos, the media dared not offend him by criticizing his acts and policies. Many of his relatives and associates enjoyed similar immunity. Assured that they could not be exposed or prosecuted for their abuses, they did as they pleased, to the detriment of democratic government. Especially scorned was the people's freedom of expression. It was only after the dictator's downfall that the magnitude of his offenses was fully disclosed, to the horror of the nation.

Many offenses could have been nipped in the bud if the media had not been gagged during those arrogant days. While this is not to say that similar anomalies cannot happen now, the freedom of expression we are again enjoying helps considerably in deterring government irregularities. All public functionaries are subject to public scrutiny and attack provided only that these are made within proper limits. Criticism of official conduct is like a sword of Damocles hanging over their heads by a single thread that may snap at any time.

But as categorical as the Bustos doctrine may be, it does not necessarily apply to judicial conduct. The judiciary has adopted a self-made rule for the special benefit of its members, with stricter conditions and sanctions. According to the old case of People v. Alarcon, 69 Phil. 265, criticism of courts is allowed only if it is made in the most respectful language and never on a case still in progress. Violation of these conditions may provoke judicial rage if not vindictiveness.

The courts are disposed to be lenient when it comes to adverse comment on executive and legislative officials. Even the then incumbent President Corazon Aquino failed when she sued the late Luis Beltran for writing in his column that she hid under her bed during the failed 1988 coup d'état. By contrast, Sen. Vicente Sotto did not escape the Supreme Court's wrath when he accused it in 1949 of "so many blunders and injustices deliberately committed" and "the incompetence and narrow-mindedness of the majority of its members" for misreading the Press Freedom Law. The justices huffily held that the senator exceeded the bonds of legitimate criticism and impaired the people's faith in the judiciary.

As long as a case is still *sub judice*, public comment on it is proscribed on pain of contempt of court. According to the Alarcon Case, "Newspaper publications which tend to impede, obstruct, embarrass or influence the courts in administering justice in a pending suit or proceeding constitutes criminal contempt which is summarily punishable by the courts. The rule is otherwise where the case is ended."

The restriction may be justified in countries where a jury composed of laymen who must decide question of fact may be influenced by public comments on the cases before them. In our country, however, both factual and legal issues are resolved by the court alone without the participation of an impressionable jury. In prohibiting such comments, the doctrine impliedly admits the susceptibility of the judge to outside influence although he is supposed to be immune from popular passions and persuasions in reaching his decision.

I believe the Supreme Court should subject itself to the doctrine it announced in Bustos, which is addressed to all public officials, including judges. Courts should not give themselves a sacrosanct status denied the political departments, which have learned to grin and bear it in deference to freedom of expression. At most, the judiciary should be accorded a little more respect than the politicians because of its sensitive and introspective nature. But never more than that.

The people's faith must be maintained, to be sure, but in the entire government and not only in the courts. Moreover, this faith cannot be imposed by magisterial edict but by the proper and praiseworthy conduct of the Congress, the President, and, yes, the Judiciary too. Confidence is earned, not decreed.

Labor Day dismay

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

LABOR Day must have been a terrible disappointment to a lot of people, although their disappointment had nothing to do with labor.

There is the People's Movement Against Poverty (PMAP), the pro-Estrada group supposedly funded by JV Ejercito, which was hoping (threatening was more like it) that the recent arrest of one of their leaders, Ronald Lumbao, would reignite the flames of anger against the incumbent administration and bring the urban masses out into the streets.

Then, there is the Philippine Consultative Assembly (PCA), which seems to have gone to bed with their erstwhile enemy, PMAP, to further fan the flames against Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her presidency.

Three reasons have been given to explain this truly strange team-up. One is that the PCA membership has so dwindled (the joke being that their three members are down to two) that they need the PMAP to provide the warm bodies for their activities. The second is that the PCA was hungry for publicity, having been out of the news for some time. And the third is that Linda Montayre finally lost the few marbles she started with.

One also has to include on this list the likes of Sen. Gringo Honasan and company, veterans of several unsuccessful coup attempts, and among those charged with instigating last year's May 1 debacle. That picture of Montayre whispering in his ear is an indication either of how low he has sunk or how far he was willing to go to succeed, depending on how the viewer regards him.

Neither can one exclude Sen. Ed Angara and, if he is to be believed, his fellow prospective victim Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who called an "emergency" press conference to announce that there was a police/military conspiracy to implicate them in some plot so they could be arrested. The idea is so far-fetched that no one else seems to have any inkling of the plot (Malacañang and the police or military seem honestly dumbfounded by the accusation). One can only conclude that this was Angara's way of shooting not two, but four birds with one stone: getting much-desired publicity, laying suspicion and blame at the door of the administration, laying the foundation for not participating in the pro-Erap demonstrations, and pulling out from the political summit.

And, of course, there are the usual leftist organizations, political as well as labor, which barely (if at all) paid lip service to labor issues, concentrating instead on the oust-Gloria campaign and US military presence in the country.

These groups, ranging from the far Right to the far Left, have several things in common: a dislike of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, a desire to cast her government in the worst possible light, a lust for publicity and an indifference to the spirit of Labor Day.

They got their comeuppance, though. The closest they came to drama and violence was when a plainclothesman was caught and divested of his sidearm—but the fun was spoiled when his police superior immediately blamed him for disobeying orders—and when overzealous officers delayed out-of-towners from joining the demonstrations. No bomb blasts, no bashings, no arrests, even.

The only similarity between this year and last year's event, aside from the conspicuous absence of Honasan, Lacson, Angara et al., was that the police had the situation under complete control and exercised utmost self-discipline and maximum tolerance. This is a definite plus for the Macapagal administration.

Moreover, the Philippines got brownie points, if only for the fact that demonstrations were allowed in the first place. This in contrast to the likes of Singapore and Malaysia, which forbade demonstrations and arrested those who disobeyed.

Almost expectedly, criticisms of "overkill" and "portent of things to come (militarization, restriction of civil liberties)" have been leveled at the administration. But better safe than sorry. As for the absence of violence, not only the police but also the demonstrators should be congratulated—the latter for successfully policing their own ranks.

Which leads to the really good news that with a vigilant police force and a vigilant community, the probability of bomb attacks, and maybe even of suicide bombers, can be made negligible.

There are those who will claim that Labor Day was a major disappointment to labor, because no across-the-board increase in minimum wage was decreed or promised by the President. One begs to differ.

A more logical view would be that, while granting or promising a minimum wage increase was the popular thing to do (in which case her critics would have jumped on her for politicking), it was not the right thing to do because:

(a) Raising the minimum wage would exacerbate the already poor employment situation among wage and salaried workers; of the 1.6 million net new jobs created last year, only 3,000 were waged.

(b) Increasing the minimum wage may affect price levels, which hurts the unemployed, the self-employed and the unpaid family workers, who do not benefit from a minimum wage, and yet outnumber wageworkers. Not to mention those who are no longer in the labor force—particularly the pensioners.

In other words, the unions may have been disappointed in not getting a minimum wage increase, but labor as a whole would have been disadvantaged if one was granted.

Who knows? Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo may yet prove that one can be right and still be President.

Pols note disenchantment with political system

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

PRESIDENT Macapagal, speaking quite candidly at the opening of the first political summit yesterday at the Manila Hotel, mentioned two TV surveys whose results showed that people were not expecting too much from the summit—meaning, it would be business as usual for the politicians. This is why, she stressed to the delegates, she was waiting with eagerness for the resolutions to come out of the summit. The three-day summit opened amid the disclosure of the results of a survey conducted by former UP president Jose V. Abueva for the UP Center for Leadership, Citizenship and Democracy last November, based on 1,200 interviewees 18 years old and older. They showed that Filipinos were becoming disenchanted with our brand of democracy and system of government, with 42 percent expressing dissatisfaction and 34 percent satisfaction—a dissatisfaction margin of 8 percent. The margin of dissatisfaction was bigger—32 percent—in the National Capital Region.

* * *

The summit opened with a strong sense among the major and regional parties and party-list groups that a lot of work has to be done to reverse this cynicism of the citizens toward the political system. It was an occasion for saying *mea culpa*, for as the summit's organizer, Speaker Jose de Venecia, put it, "the political parties and their leaders are to blame," because quite often "we, the political parties, have become the problem—and not the solution." The breast-beating alone was worth the difficulty of getting the parties together, just as by simply gathering for the first time, as JDV noted, the political parties were making "a powerful political statement." Which is, to reject instruments of instability such as coups and juntas, and to move the political parties from being "mere vessels for vote-watching" to real tools of development to move the country forward.

* * *

Time is of the essence in reforming the political party system that's on trial today, and the political parties and groups have plenty of common goals, among them, how to bring down the level of election violence and cheating, and how to reduce the gargantuan election expenses that shut out poor but deserving candidates and make our political system a hostage to "booty capitalism," i.e., the powerful business groups that finance electoral exercises and use politicians and the machinery of the government to further their economic interests. What's good about the summit is that while the various parties and groups recognized the weaknesses of the system, they also displayed an eagerness to find solutions and reforms, knowing full well that the political volcano could explode if they don't act. One of the reforms being pushed is a state subsidy for political parties, as a way to help reduce election expenses which, in turn, breed corruption.

* * *

A sour note, as the INQUIRER noted yesterday, was the last-minute decision of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP), through its president, Sen. Edgardo Angara, and Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, president of the PDP-Laban, to boycott the summit. This is regrettable because both parties were involved up to the last minute, including in the technical working groups to thresh out policy issues and six policy workshops. The LDP stayed away completely, but the PDP was represented by Makati Rep. Teddyboy Locsin, who chaired the drafting committee. Asked by the media why Angara didn't show up, JDV recounted that the senator called him up early yesterday morning to announce his boycott in protest against alleged intelligence reports that the administration was out to arrest him and fellow opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson. JDV said Angara stressed that he believed this report. JDV encouraged Angara to show up and use the summit to air this grievance, so that perhaps it could move to have his complaint investigated. The Speaker said he told the senator that the reason Angara was enjoying a high rating in the surveys was that citizens perceive him to be a responsible and mature leader. Boycotting the summit for such a reason, JDV argued, would make him look like a cheap politician.

It's interesting to note that Angara has stuck to his story even after Interior Secretary Joey Lina called him up last May 1 to flatly deny it. This was followed by a public denial made by NCR police chief, Director Edgardo Aglipay. But as this column has noted, Angara obviously was more interested in making political capital out of the arrest story. *Patuloy ang drama ni* Angara, who has an eye on 2004.

* * *

This makes Akbayan Rep. Loretta Rosales more of a statesman than him. Rosales showed up at the summit to deliver the Akbayan statement, but she opened it by protesting attempts by various parties to lump all protest actions as irresponsible. She stressed that a distinction ought to be made between the peaceful, legitimate protests of the working class last May 1 and the rallies fueled by politicians' money that capitalized on the poverty of those who were being recruited.

Even President Macapagal used the summit to air her apprehensions about charter change, after enumerating like an economics professor the things people should feel good about (e.g., the stable peso, the "best-performing" stock market in the world, according to Bloomberg, "taming the budget monster"). This was a point well taken, for the summit is precisely a forum for an exchange of ideas and apprehensions. While the President did not object to the inclusion of cha-cha in the summit agenda, she stressed that the proposed shift to federalism, for instance, should first look into whether the various local political components are "economically viable," since cutting them off from the national government could leave certain areas economically undeveloped. She proposed setting up economic zones during the transition period.

From Makiling to Makati

YOUNGBLOOD

Katrina Bianca Ramos

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

MY chocolate-brown "sensible" cardigan was sticking to my armpits as the bus I was riding speeded down the Skyway. These job interview ensembles were starting to annoy me. Cardigans and business suits are all right for countries with four seasons, but in this tropical country all they bring is misery. It was lunchtime and the noonday sun was beating down on the windows and the heat seemed to permeate the bus, making its air-conditioning useless.

I impatiently shifted on the crammed seat. At least I wasn't hanging on to the *estribo* like the last time I went out, a terrible headache drilling my temples as the shock of my first job interview subsided and the nervousness I felt inside the office was replaced by fatigue. I looked at the receding figure of Makati, a collection of towering skyscrapers swathed in dark clouds—romantic when you look at it (almost like the fictional city in the 1994 movie "The Crow"), until you realize the cloud is the accumulated residue of air pollution. It looked just as promising and intimidating as the Makati of my dreams, an almost mythical place with offices, where after college I would get a job and earn money and become rich beyond my wildest dreams. Visions of myself emerging from a polished Lexus, clad head to toe in items that can be purchased only at 6750 Ayala Avenue swam in my head as I labored in the boondocks of the University of the Philippines Los Baños.

A polished Lexus? Yeah, right. More like a sooty bus. Just look at the bedraggled passengers in their high heels and stockings and neckties, all limp and crumpled from the day's worries like old P10 bills. Most of them looked like they wanted to take a nap right there and then, but they had to stay awake for fear of being victimized by quick-fingered seatmates. One must never let one's guard down, unless one is looking for trouble.

So they sat silently and stiffly, half-relaxing their backs, half-clinging to their briefcases. Droopy eyelids fluttered and then the poor fellows had to jerk themselves awake. Some stared at the road that was unfolding before the windows. Others studied the graffiti scrawled on the seats in front, seemingly engrossed in deciphering what the public declaration "Jojo and Evelyn I Love You Forever" meant, while others simply took on the glazed and comatose look of the catatonic.

There they were around me, society's automatons, the regular Joses and Marias who punched in their time cards and waited until five o'clock to get on board buses that were bound to be gridlocked in traffic. Their dreamless eyes and blank faces made them seem anonymous and mute, mere masks hiding the secrets of their lives like impersonal safes. They seemed to be so ordinary, so homogenous, almost taking on the still countenance of batteries—batteries that were drained of their power, and wishing to get home to be recharged.

Maybe there was a cold plate of leftover rice and reheated *tinola* waiting for them on the dinner table when they arrived. Maybe there was a child with a stack of notebooks and pencils, impatiently waiting to be acknowledged and helped with their homework. Or perhaps there was just a still house with an old television set waiting—waiting to entertain, waiting to inform, waiting to lull them to sleep.

A week earlier, I sat straight on a modest monoblock arranged in a line with hundreds of other monoblock chairs, all filled with smiling students draped in black togas. We marched in our sensible shoes and our powdered faces beamed as we watched professors and regents and UP's big guns walk between us in their costumes—togas adorned with elaborate scarves and hoods and necklaces. We were all feeling as if we were reaching the end of a reel of film. Our minds were filled with grandiose visions and the endless roll call of graduates could not dampen our enthusiasm.

So excited were we about getting started in the rat race that we all hurried to Makati for the job fair at Glorietta with nary a week's rest. One of my friends remarked that we seemed to have marched off the stage at UP straight into the heart of Makati.

In our eagerness, we threw around resumés like ticker tape. We tramped all over the streets of Makati, raised hell on the MRT, fought our way out of the traffic in Quezon City, and in the process exhausted quickly our smaller, post-college allowances. From the distant mountain of Mt. Makiling, Makati looked like a gleaming glass tower, filled with promise and opportunity and oozing with a cosmopolitan élan unknown in our campus of trees and grass. A few days making the rounds of companies, however, quickly dashed our hopes.

A few days inside the glass tower introduced me to the real world with greater effectiveness than four years of listening to recycled lectures. A few days of leaving resumés with smirking security guards who assure you that your papers would be processed "just in case." A few days hearing the words "We'll call you" from self-important receptionists and interns who act as if their companies were God's gift to mankind. A few days of scanning classified ads and wishing, at the last minute, that one had taken up nursing instead. A few days of increasing uncertainty about ever finding a job you would love even if you come armed with a degree. A few days of being interrogated by surly job interviewers who are very eager to destroy the illusion that you learned something in college. A few days sitting in crowded buses surrounded by tired employees with the blank looks of zombies in their eyes, giving you a sneak preview of your life in the corporate jungle. All this is a crash course on Life 101, which colleges have deleted from the curriculum.

After mulling over all this, I noticed the bus rolling to a stop in front of a crowd of people, jeepneys and conductors. Suddenly the half-dead automatons were rising and hurriedly clutching on to the handrails even before the driver stepped on the brakes. As soon as the doors creaked open, they moved quickly and decisively, hurrying home perhaps to the plate of *tinola*, or to that sleepy child, or to the PBA games on TV.

Before I left the bus, that vision from my graduation came back to me again: row after row of monoblock chairs filled with students clad ominously in black. The feeling that followed was no longer one of hope, opportunity or excitement. It was a feeling that has kept coming back to me like that endless roll call of graduates. I had to tell myself I needed more batteries, more batteries, more batteries.

Katrina Bianca Ramos, 20, finished BA Communication Arts at the University of the Philippines Los Baños.

Neither context nor explanation

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

JOURNALISTS in the Philippines operate in a generally "supportive" atmosphere—if not exactly in material and professional terms, then at least in terms of freedom to do our work and, in the words of journalism professor Luis Teodoro, official "tolerance of the mass media, including its excesses."

A President waxing sarcastic at the annual Gridiron aside, government officials, especially at the highest level, have learned to "live with" a contentious and critical media. Though there have been "the usual exceptions," as Teodoro points out in his paper "Legal and Ethical Issues in the Coverage of Terrorism," which I started quoting yesterday in this space. Teodoro cites "instances in which overzealous provincial executives have shut down radio stations and printing presses," as well as the killings of provincial journalists—37 since the full flowering of press freedom in 1986. This makes the Philippines, according to the US Committee to Protect Journalists, "one of the most dangerous places in the world to practice journalism."

Despite the strictures placed on media coverage from time to time, usually in relation to "national security" concerns, local and even foreign media here have managed to work their way around barriers erected around particularly hot stories. "(W)e all know how enterprising reporters have managed to report even the most inflammatory utterances, and even to penetrate military blockades, as indeed happened during the Sulu offensive of the Estrada administration in October 2000 during the first of two, mostly ineffective news blackouts we've had in this country in the last two years, thanks to the Abu Sayyaf problem."

Whatever failures and shortcomings journalists are guilty of in the course of covering and explaining terrorism, then, have little to do with official hostility or repression. If we're searching for blame, we would have to look elsewhere.

* * *

MASS media in a democracy, says Teodoro, enjoy special protection "in recognition of the value of reliable, accurate and relevant information to enable free men and women to make the informed decisions a sovereign people have to make in a democratizing society." But for the media to meet that mandate, he adds, "press freedom is not enough. The mass media also need to observe those professional and ethical principles, among them accuracy, fairness, balance, humaneness and autonomous reporting and comment, that are at the heart of journalism practice."

So how did—and do—the Philippine media cover terrorism in our midst? Especially its most visible and sensational manifestation, the Abu Sayyaf? "One would have expected stories on the Abu Sayyaf problem in 2000 beyond the endless accounts of how the hostages were feeling (how else should they have felt?), and the footage cum biographies of Abu Sayyaf personages (which made some of them virtual household words like certain soap and toothpaste brands)," observes Teodoro.

* * *

MEDIA'S failure in the coverage of the Abu Sayyaf, posits Teodoro, does not lie in reportage but in explanation. "Remarkable indeed for their absence in the last two years since the Abu Sayyaf raid on the Sipadan Island resort in Malaysia are the articles that will enable readers to understand the complex causes behind such phenomena as the Abu Sayyaf, and perhaps even more critically, groups driven by genuine grievances into taking up the gun such as the Moro Islamic Liberation Front."

"The professional and ethical issue involved in this lapse is truth telling," notes Teodoro. And this "requires that reports not only be factually accurate but that they also provide the contextual information that can make the difference between readers' totally misunderstanding an event or a series of events in the news, and their appreciating it as part of a chain of events, processes and developments."

Living up to the demands of truth-telling, though, requires research capability, not so much by way of academic research as by "providing, say, historical background to a conflict as complex as that which is going on in Mindanao."

But in a situation rife with super-heated competition, "there appears to be neither time nor will for skills enhancement, particularly in the area of research capability." Most of the time, says Teodoro, "such events as the resumption of hostilities between the Philippine armed forces and armed Muslim groups are covered neither as part of a chain of complex events or as the consequence of festering social and economic grievances, but as just another incident of violence like a street shooting or a hold-up—of course with bloody photographs and video footage to match."

* * *

COMMERCIALISM, and its dominance among the values that media outlets foster, may be "the most fundamental ethical issue of all," says Teodoro, "when a publication or any media organization allows its commercial and financial interests to dominate its public service function to the extent of its shaping its coverage and even deciding what information to disseminate and what to kill."

Commercialism "links all the other ethical issues, whether it be sensationalism, the willful withholding of information, biased reports, and even the emphasis on sex and violence, all of which sell newspapers and boost ratings."

As for the use of "terrorist" and "terrorism," notes Teodoro, "it is not so much its indiscriminate use as its being interchangeably used with terms like 'rebel' and 'separatist' to describe groups as varied as the Abu Sayyaf, the MILF and the MNLF which has contributed to the continuing mis-education via the mass media."

A cool summer day in Pagsanjan

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L.Harper

ALTHOUGH he has moved to Pagsanjan and is putting down roots there, I always think of my friend Ernest as being from Malate. His club, Coco Banana, survives in the collective memory of that generation growing up in the rambunctious 1970s in the shadow of martial law, but who cared? Some two months ago a lot of us enjoyed his take-off on Glenn Close/Gloria Swanson in "Sunset Boulevard," blond hair and all, at the "Illusione" show. My companions complimented the whole production and thought it would make a dandy tourist attraction. So Ernest is a person of many talents.

Having invited his good friend Chito Collantes to his restaurant in Pagsanjan, the founding chair of the former Friends of the Cultural Center (now known as Friends for Cultural Concerns) decided to extend the invitation to a busload of interested members and friends. Another bus brought in the Manila Symphony II and Liza Macuja-Elizalde's group to perform as part of their out-reach program.

The mayor got into the act, as did the governor. Also the parish priest and—horrors!—the bishop. Although the bishop, to be fair, did nothing more than ban the use of the church for the performance. I may of course have gotten it wrong, but I never did get an explanation as to what is wrong with using the church for a concert? Although Catholic bishops all over the world at the moment appear to be handling a crisis that erupted in the United States a couple of months ago, ours appear to be more concerned with other matters such as McDonald's and whether the laity has access to the Church. (We don't apparently, without their express permission.) Be that as it may, it may explain the alienation of a younger generation of Filipinos who may feel that the Church has no relevance in their lives.

What was striking about Pagsanjan and later Paete and Lumbang was the coolness of the summer day. Let me explain that Ernest is now into landscaping and resort planning so that the garden that surrounds his open-walled house is lush with the welcome sight of towering trees, orchids and ferns. Three small open pavilions with thatched roofs nestle in the shade, and despite it being midday a pleasant breeze accompanied us. One structure sitting on a pool of running water included a loft where perhaps overnight guests can be accommodated but everything is in bamboo with Chinese opium beds for visitors to recline in, antique porcelain pieces for accents and Art Deco chairs and tables. Molave tabernacles dot the corners of the garden as spirit houses! Talk about adaptive re-use! Naturally it takes talent to set something like this up.

For your amusement (not necessarily your comfort or ease), there's an outdoor bathroom with two walls that still has me stumped. Does someone stand by and warn others off or do you sit there and chance getting caught *en flagrante*? The idea however is novel. Think about doing your early morning constitutional surrounded by chirping birds and the neighbors' crowing roosters.

Buffet tables were set up both inside and outside the main house, laid out fiesta-style, and since breakfast had been several hours ago, we all gravitated to them. The *pako* (fern) salad coupled with paper-thin slices of *singkamas* and julienne *kesong puti* was memorable. Beside it was another salad of *ubod*, with an excellent dressing made from *tahuri*. I would have loved getting the recipe, but that wasn't part of the deal.

This was fine and healthy enough until I smelled the *adobo* and remembered Tessie Luz's Arturo saying a good *adobo* is as rare as an under glaze red. Think about it. I don't even bother after I burnt my first effort and the second was a weird mixture that looked like a soup of *toyo* with bits of chicken and pork floating in it. Well, Ernest's was lovely, succulent chunks of pork—never mind the guilt trip. With that there was *pancit*, *tilapia* in *miso* with vegetables, smoked *tulingan* and fresh sweet pineapple, mangoes and watermelon to round up a lunch that demanded seconds and maybe thirds. The *bibingka* was for *merienda* later.

Another resident of Pagsanjan had once introduced us to sweetened *calamansi* paired with vanilla ice cream but unfortunately blight has overtaken the *calamansi* this year.

Before the 5 o'clock concert, now relocated to the entrance of the town with that great arch as a backdrop, the bus took the ladies to Paete and Lumbang for some sightseeing and shopping. *Kesong puti* is available from vendors that greet tourist buses and many of the handcrafted items you run across in Christmas bazaars can be found in the shops of Paete. Lumbang really does have excellent embroidery designs finely executed and even dyed *jusi* for a change of pace.

Finally it was time to head back and listen to the MSO II serenade the townspeople with the "William Tell Overture," "Philippine Medley" and Lucio San Pedro's "Batong Buhangin," among other classics, and of course, enjoy Liza Macuja-Elizalde's versatility and talent.

Yes, Virginia, there is more to our culture than sand, sea and sun, but it takes an Ernest Santiago and a group like the FCCP to bring it all together. While it is true that all cultural agency budgets were slashed, one would have expected at least that the malls would pay tribute to the two National Artists, San Pedro and Levi Celerio, who just passed away and play some of their compositions. But you can't even expect that.

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North Expressway extension long overdue

OUR cell phone rings as our nephew Alan from the province tells us the sad news about a young lawyer and townmate who just perished in a fiery collision between a car and a bus in Bamban, Tarlac.

A lawyer's first instinct is to ask who was at fault. But not us, for we have long maintained that the MacArthur Highway—the two-lane highway linking Metro Manila to the North—has become so constricted to safely accommodate the heavy traffic. Where can one find a highway where all kinds of vehicles—from the slow-moving tricycles and sugar cane trucks to speedy Pajeros and mammoth beer trailers—compete for the available space?

It was this narrow highway that claimed the life of Baguio Mayor Ernie Bueno and maimed Sen. Miriam Santiago, Vandolph and countless others.

When the 1980s drew to a close, I rejoiced as I drove to the freeway exit at Sta. Ines, Mabalacat, Pampanga. Little did I know then that 10 years later that tollgate would remain there, shattering my boyhood dream of leaving the polluted city for halcyon weekends in rural Camiling.

The irony of it is that during that long period, presidents from Tarlac and Pangasinan, in that order, served the country. We are optimistic though that the incumbent President who comes from Pampanga and Pangasinan will extend the expressway that her own father began to build when he was the president in the early 1960s.

—DANIEL VALDEZ, Camiling Jaycee Senate, Camiling, Tarlac

LETTERS — PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Subdivision dispute now in the hands of Malacañang

PLEASE allow us to reply to the biased column of Neal Cruz, titled "Quezon City Hall afraid of Fairview squatter," last April 11, 2002.

The title and the column itself were meant to goad city hall and other officials into moving, against what Cruz calls an illegal structure in the middle of Akasya Street, which is allegedly blocking the entry and exit of residents in our subdivision. It implied that the homeowners' association and the owner of the structure were defying the authorities and using undue power and influence to stop its demolition.

That is not true. The parties who influenced Cruz into writing his piece are the ones using their influence to cause the demolition of the structure through lies and misrepresentation. If that structure still stands, it is because we have made the proper appeal to the right forum. We are relying on justice and the rule of law to be able to assert our rights and prerogatives on the matter.

The controversy rests mainly on the ownership of Akasya Street. Our barangay captain, Flora Gasser, erroneously claims that the street was donated to the city government in 1978. But that street and what is now Neopolitan Fairview were then retained by B.C. Regalado & Co. The area was taken over by the Fil-Estate-Sta. Lucia consortium in the 1980s. That group then improved the place and paved many streets, including Akasya.

Documents prove our contention that Akasya Street was never donated to the city government and remains a private property. We have submitted these documents with our appeal to the proper authorities. We are awaiting the outcome of our appeal.

Gasser, assisted by her husband, retired TV newscaster Harry Gasser, has used the spurious claim in getting the support of unsuspecting homeowners, Quezon City building officials and the public works secretary. The couple moved surreptitiously behind our backs and without our knowledge, and succeeded in getting demolition orders from those offices which didn't bother to get our side.

What has stopped the demolition is our appeal to the Office of the President. If the Gassers are truly just after the enforcement of laws and regulations for the sake of public order, why can't they wait for Malacañang's decision?

Cruz's column also slurs our homeowners' association and its officers. Our association is the only one in our area, and 90 percent or more of the homeowners recognize its legitimacy. Many who signed the original petition surreptitiously passed around by the Gassers have returned to its fold after being enlightened.

All our elections were held in accordance with our association's constitution and by-laws. The association has allowed only members of good standing—those who have paid their dues faithfully—to vote or be voted on as candidates. Flora Gasser and her group composed of residents who refuse to pay their dues sought to stop or delay our last elections, but the HLURB representative who came to investigate told us to proceed after listening to both sides.

We don't close streets to get even with our rivals. We maintain two gates, the most convenient ones for most residents. We closed the Akasya gate because it is one too many and it unduly drained our coffers. Many residents, even those who now have to drive or walk longer distances, understand our position and don't object.

—EVANGELINA ORTIZ, president, Neopolitan Sitio Seville Homeowners' Association Inc., Quezon City

Daily 'murder' of the national language

DOES the Komisyon ng Wikang Pilipino care enough to stop the "murder" of Filipino being committed every day by many media people?

You will be surprised to know that TV and radio stations and advertising agencies are leading the effort. These agencies put out advertisements that use words like *"matutunan"* or *"natutunan,"* instead of the correct forms: *"matutuhan"* and *"natutuhan"*; *"ako din," "siya din," "buhok ko din,"* instead of *"ako rin," "siya rin," "buhok ko rin"*; *"mga teachers," "mga programs," "mga senators,"* instead of *"mga teacher," "mga program," "mga senator."*

Retired Justice Isagani Cruz in his column last April 21 pointed out the proliferation of the "current use of personal pronouns for inanimate objects." Some cooking demonstrations on TV are guilty of this. They would say, *"Luto na siya," "Tikman mo siya," "Masarap siya,"* instead of: *"Luto na 'yan/ito," "Tikman mo 'yan/ito,"* and *"Masarap 'yan/ito."* One would think a dead person's meat was used as an ingredient in the food being tasted!

This writer admires Tiya Dely who goes out of her way to correct her guests or co-workers who commit flaws in the use of Filipino words.

May I suggest that the Komisyon ng Wikang Pilipino offer crash refresher courses for media people? This is one sector of society that has been mangling Filipino instead of being a very effective tool in strengthening, enhancing and improving our national language.

—ELSA M. GAVINO, Pasig City

FX taxi going the way of the jeepney

TO MOST Filipinos, the jeepney serves as a fine symbol of the Filipino. I disagree. To me, it is an eyesore, a piece of scrap, an annoying reminder of our backwardness.

Whenever possible, I prefer to ride a mega taxi, more popularly known as the FX, a distant relative of the jeepney. One travels more comfortably in the FX since it is air-conditioned and it carries fewer passengers.

The issue about FX taxis being allowed to ply specific routes and collect fares for individual passengers remains unsettled, but I don't care. What I am concerned about is the overloading of passengers in the FX which pisses me no end. The word *"sardinas"* captures the feeling not only because the vehicle is cramped but more so because many times, you do get seated with someone who might either smell like fish or has some fishy intentions, e.g. cell-phone snatchers and hold-up men.

According to the Land Transportation Office, the maximum number of people the FX can take is 10, and that includes the driver. What happens however is that 11 (sometimes up to 13) passengers are made to fill the FX. Four passengers are usually made to squeeze themselves into the middle seat no matter how uncomfortable, no matter how impossible. As a result, one has to play sacrificial lamb and stay half-seated during the trip.

Neither the police, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority nor the LTO has done anything about this. I bet three persons from these agencies will hardly fit in there.

Let this be an appeal not only to FX drivers and operators but to the riding public as well. The Philippines is already cramped as it is. Let us not make the FX a microcosm of the Philippine situation like the jeepney.

—HERDY L. YUMUL, 628-E Extramadura St., Sampaloc, Manila

Boy, 5, needs help for operation

I AM Meldea T. Cabili, a 22-year-old student from Imus, Cavite. I am the eldest among five children. My father is a salesman and my mother is a housewife. I am writing this letter in the hope that someone will help us raise funds for my baby brother's operation.

My youngest brother, Ian Gabrie, was diagnosed with a rare and malignant tumor (embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma) when he was 2 years old. This tumor is lodged between his prostate and his urinary tract. He suffers intense abdominal pain every time he urinates.

At first the pain was tolerable. But now my brother howls with pain every time he relieves himself. Sometimes he just falls asleep crying.

He has undergone chemotherapy for 20 months. My parents have used up all our possible financial resources for my brother's treatment. We have sold everything that we own so that we can save my brother's life.

He was in remission for more than six months. We all thought that was the end of his sufferings. But last April 6, the ultrasound showed that he has another tumor lodged in his urinary bladder. His doctor said that there is no other choice but to operate. His bladder has to be removed together with his prostate. A bag will have to replace his bladder in order for my brother to survive.

My brother is barely 5 years old. We have used up all our resources. My parents are at their wit's end trying to find money for his operation. As the eldest in the family, I thought that I should make this appeal for help.

Please help me and my family so that we can save my baby brother. If you need to verify and get other information, you can call his doctor, David T. Bolong, M.D., Adult and Pediatric Urology, UST Hospital-Medical Arts Bldg. Rm. 5002, Tel. 7499759; 7313001 Loc. 2507

My father, Alfeo B. Cabili, can be reached at 9128881 or at 09163382463.

—MELDEA T. CABILI

A spectacular planetary alignment

I WROTE to clarify the usage of the word "array" in one of your front-page news items last April 19, specifically, the one titled "Five planets line up in a celestial array." I believe that word was too loosely used and has, in effect, generalized a spectacular event.

My eldest daughter, who is more perceptive than I am and knows I am delighted with looking at the night sky, texted me that there would be a "celestial array" visible to the naked eye. I corrected her, saying that the sky is already an array of stars and planets, and maybe she meant "alignment." I even argued with my wife, who pointed out that that was what was written in your newspaper.

I checked INQ7.net for the story, since I didn't read the article myself. But I was able to find an article on the same subject at BBC online (http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/sci/tech/newsid_1908000/1908855.stm).

I read the article, and there was no mention of the word "array" although it mentioned something about an "arrangement."

I am a stargazer. I once wanted to become an astronaut, or an astronomer. I once knew almost all the Northern Hemisphere constellations, and by golly I still recognize a few. I even recall what these constellations symbolize, and how they equate with astrology. Although these dreams did not materialize, I have remained fascinated with the stars, a trait I share with my eldest daughter.

A planetary system, like our own is already an array. A galaxy is also an array, albeit a much larger one. The universe, our universe, is the biggest conglomeration of galaxies and is in itself an array. Whether the planets or the stars align or do not, they will and shall forever be classified as an array. But you will hardly hear anyone, an astronomer least of all, refer to these systems as such. And to call a special astronomical event like the five planets lining up "a celestial array" is to state the obvious, if not a grave error in the mind of a stargazer. We simply call an event like this one a spectacular, once-in-a-lifetime planetary alignment.

The planetary alignment that we can see from dusk till midnight until May 5, 2002 began two years ago when Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn started aligning themselves with the Sun, though it was not visible since the Earth was on the opposite side of the Sun. After two years the Earth has already moved into a position that allows the alignment to be visible to the naked eye in the night sky, the brightest, and topmost, being Jupiter.

Hoping for a positive response, since the next spectacular event will take place in another hundred years or so.

—ANTONIO BUCU, matanglawin@mac.com

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Security Council deadlocked; Annan sends Jenin fact-finding team home

UNITED NATIONS—UN Secretary General Kofi Annan ordered a fact-finding panel home on Thursday, formally canceling the mission into Israel's devastating assault on the Jenin refugee camp.

With the Security Council deadlocked on how to respond to a cancellation prompted by Israel's rejection of the mission, Arab nations gave up their attempt to have the Security Council adopt a resolution critical of Israel and wanted to reconvene an emergency General Assembly session on the Middle East.

After announcing the mission's cancellation a day earlier, Annan said in a statement issued by his office on Thursday, he was disbanding the team. He informed Israel, the Palestinian Authority, the Security Council and team leader Martti Ahtisaari, the former Finnish president.

As a courtesy to the council, Annan had delayed for a day disbanding the team, which had been on standby in Geneva. But the 15-member body was unable over the past 24 hours to come, up with a response to Israel's rejection of the mission on grounds its mandate and scope would be harmful to the Jewish state. ***Reuters***

Mideast 'quartet' plans meet

WASHINGTON—The Middle East policy "quartet" comprising the United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations said Thursday it would organize an international peace conference on the region early this summer.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell said the group would work in coming weeks with Israel and the Palestinians, as well as other nations, to hold a conference meant to promote "serious and accelerated negotiations toward a settlement."

Powell stressed that details about when and where the meeting would be held as well as who would participate had not been finalized, but said the quartet was determined to build in recent diplomatic progress in the Middle East.

"This is a time for prompt action to take advantage of this new window of opportunity that has been presented to us and we intend to do just that," Powell told reporters.

The announcement came after Powell hosted talks with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana and Spanish Foreign Minister Josep Pique.

Powell cited recent diplomatic progress made in the region, particularly the lifting of the Israeli siege of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's headquarters, the Muqataa, in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

US President George W. Bush, citing that breakthrough, said there were "some signs of progress" toward ending 19 months of bloodshed but warned that the newly free Arafat must now "show the world that he's capable of leading."

Powell warned Arafat did not have "many more chances" to "move in a new direction" by using his leadership to stop anti-Israel violence.

"He's had some chance to grab the peace and hasn't done so in the past. And therefore, he has let down the Palestinian people. Now is a chance to show he can lead," Bush said in a joint press conference in Washington with European Union leaders.

"A Palestinian state must be achieved by negotiating an end to occupation, but such a state cannot be based on a foundation of terror or corruption," Bush said with European Commission President Romano Prodi and Spain's Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, the current European Union president, at his side.

Israel withdrew its troops from Ramallah on Wednesday after US and British wardens, operating under a proposal from Bush, took custody of six Palestinian militants wanted for the October slaying of its tourism minister.

After the White House said it would back accelerated talks if the parties themselves agreed to do so, Powell told reporters a wide range of issues, including security, economic reform, humanitarian issues and political negotiations "have to be integrated" in the meeting's agenda.

"I hope it's something that the parties in the region will welcome: moving aggressively forward so that people see not only economic hope, but they see political hope as we move forward toward our vision of a Palestinian state," he said. ***AFP***

India Air Force jet crashes into building

JULLUNDUR, India—An Indian Air Force jet crashed into a bank building in northwestern India on Friday, starting a fire that killed at least six people and injured 20, according to a doctor.

The Soviet-made MiG-21 nose-dived into the two-story building in the Basti Adda neighborhood of Jullundur, a witness said. The building and an adjacent plywood warehouse and a commercial building containing shops caught fire.

"I saw the fighter jet roll over a couple of times before it hurtled down," said Sunil Malhotra, a software programmer who was standing on the balcony of his house. "I saw a blast in the sky and within 20 seconds, the plane fell. I saw the pilot and copilot parachuting down."

The rear portion of the plane burned up, he said, and the front crashed into the bank building, with parts hitting other buildings.

The pilot, S.P. Naik, and the copilot bailed out and parachuted to safety. They were hospitalized, but the extent of their injuries was not immediately released.

Eighteen of the 20 injured were in critical condition, said Dr. Surinder Kaur, medical superintendent at the government hospital in Jullundur. She said six people were killed, adding that she was mistaken when she earlier reported eight dead.

Malhotra and other witnesses reported that fire engines were delayed or had trouble getting water when they arrived. He said one fire truck broke down as it neared the site and bystanders had to push it.

The fire raged for more than three hours after the crash. Army fire trucks arrived to help the ill-equipped civilian force.

The fighter jet had taken off from the nearby Adampur air force base and was on a routine flight when it crashed, said P.K. Bandhopadhyaya, the defense ministry's spokesperson in New Delhi.

It hit houses shops and a branch of the Bank of Rajasthan.

Jullundur lies 75 km southwest of Amritsar in Punjab state.

Hundreds of thousands of Indian and Pakistani armed forces have been deployed to the northwestern border area because of war alerts by both countries. Patrol flights by India's aging MiG-21s occur daily.

India's fleet is prone to crashes. In the past six years, the government has reported more than 100 crashes that killed 50 pilots.

"Training on MiG-21s is being suspended . . . to check out the aircraft," an Air Force spokesperson, Squadron Leader R.K. Dhingra, said in New Delhi, after the crash. He did not announce a suspension of patrol flights, however. ***AP***

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First Preliminary Draw Winners

North Luzon	South Luzon 1	West Visayas
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2nd Prize - William Pajares, Baguio City	2nd Prize - Rominia Pepa, Cavite City	2nd Prize - Lilibeth Libero, Iloilo City
3rd Prize - Virgie Fernandez, Dagupan City	3rd Prize - Perfecto Obrador, Lemery, Batangas	3rd Prize - Dean Kho, Bacolod City
Central Luzon	**South Luzon 2**	**North Mindanao**
1st Prize - Virgilio Amarillo, San Fernando, Pampanga	1st Prize - Fructuoso Nadong, Nabua, Camarines Sur	1st Prize - Riza Jaglawan, Cagayan de Oro City
2nd Prize - Princess Lapid, Dinalupihan, Bataan	2nd Prize - Remesa Fortaleza, Lucena City	2nd Prize - Cherry Salvaloza, Butuan City
3rd Prize - Rosalinda Marcelino, San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan	3rd Prize - Hermoso Oronan, Tabaco, Albay	3rd Prize - Norma Irag, Ozamis City
GMA	**East Visayas**	**South Mindanao**
1st Prize - Ma. Aurora Labandilo, Pasig City	1st Prize - Dyesebel Sarsaba, Cebu City	1st Prize - Ernesto Nunal, Zamboanga City
2nd Prize - Librada Diala, Valenzuela City	2nd Prize - Ma. Corazon Lariosa, Palo, Leyte	2nd Prize - Loida Gedorio, Surallah, South Cotabato
3rd Prize - Bienvenida Cabrera, Parañaque City	3rd Prize - Merylyn Ganzon, Maribojoc, Bohol	3rd Prize - Carmela Pielago, Malita, Davao del Sur

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All non-winning entries will still qualify for the Second Preliminary Draw and the Grand Draw.

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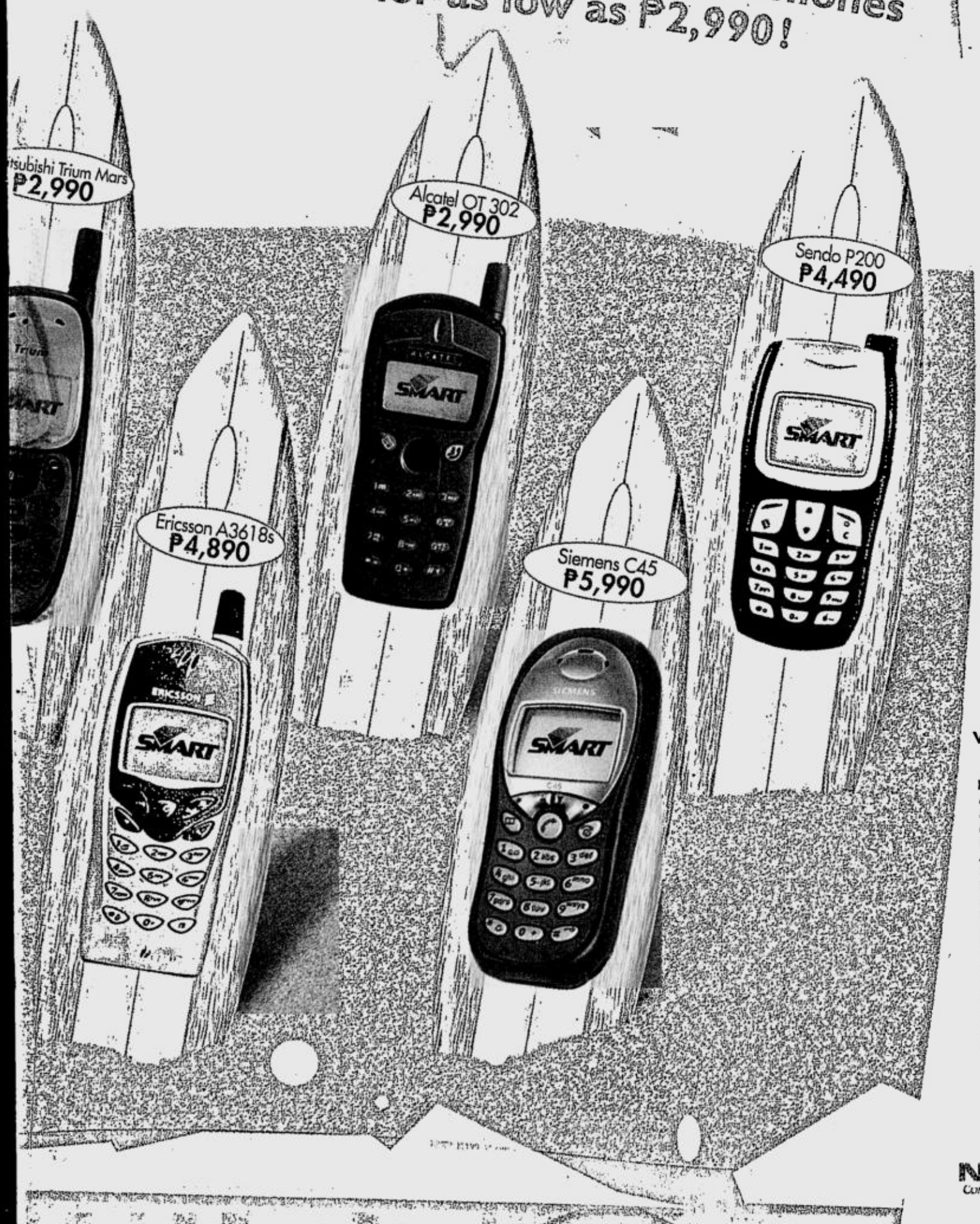

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SM Bacoor (*UG/F Centermall bet. Pizza Hut and French Baker*)

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Suu Kyi supporters prepare for her release

RANGOON—Pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi's supporters prepared Friday for her release from house arrest, calling it the first step in their goal to achieve political freedom after 40 years of military rule.

"We are certain she will be released but we can't tell you when," said Tin Oo, the vice chair of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party.

Burma's military junta has indicated that Suu Kyi will be released soon from 19 months of house arrest as a result of UN-brokered reconciliation talks that began in October 2000.

It has not given a date for the release. But on Friday, it freed five other NLD members from two prisons, saying they are in good health.

Also Friday, about a half-dozen plainclothes military intelligence agents dressed in longyis, or sarongs, and sandals lounged near a tea shop at the entrance to University Avenue, which leads to Suu Kyi's lakeside residence. The street remained blocked as usual by police barricades with a "No Entry" sign in the middle of the road.

The ramshackle party headquarters was, however, being spruced up by party workers. New air conditioning units were lugged to the second floor along with wooden planks and other building materials to repair parts of the office.

On Thursday, the NLD said the opposition and the junta are close to a breakthrough in their 12-year-old political deadlock. The party has refused to elaborate, pending Suu Kyi's release.

The sudden turn of events came after the seventh visit to Burma last month by Razali Ismail, the special United Nations envoy who initiated the reconciliation talks.

Suu Kyi's imminent release has raised hopes that the junta will loosen its hold on power and accept the opposition as a legitimate political force.

A local engineer and a former student activist who supports Suu Kyi said people would be happy if she was released, but added: "It might sound cruel but Suu Kyi's release is a minor part of the process." He spoke on condition of anonymity.

"Even if Suu Kyi is released it is only the first step. There is still a long way to go," said Somchai Homla-or, secretary general of Forum Asia, a democracy group in neighboring Thailand.

"The international community should not stop encouraging all parties to push forward for democracy in Burma," he said in an interview in Bangkok.

Burma, also known as Myanmar, has been ruled by the military since 1962 and the current junta came to power in 1988 after crushing a pro-democracy movement. Suu Kyi was put under house arrest in 1989.

The junta called elections in 1990 but refused to hand over power when the NLD won. It freed Suu Kyi in 1995 but prohibited her from traveling outside Rangoon. She was put under house arrest again in September 2000 when she tried to leave Rangoon by train. ***AP***

UK shocked by far right win

BURNLEY, England—The tiny, hard right British National Party won two council seats in the northern industrial town of Burnley on Thursday, in local elections which mostly showed grassroots Britain rejecting extremist politics.

Buoyed by the shock success of French National Front leader Jean Marie Le Pen in presidential elections, the British National Party (BNP) had hoped to overcome a disastrous history at the polls at both local council and parliamentary level.

The marginal, neofascist group, whose paid-up members are counted in the hundreds and who lack any support in the mainstream media, have only ever won one council seat before, in the East End of London in 1993.

The election of David Edwards, a civil engineer, to a two-year post on the council came as a particular shock since the seat he won does not represent the dilapidated housing estates which witnessed weeks of racial unrest last summer.

"It's a tremendous result for us, and all the more surprising because it is not in a rundown, poor estate that we might normally expect. He comes from a prosperous, rural area," BNP spokesperson Simon Bennett said.

The party's other successful candidate, Carol Hughes, a divorced carer, came third in her ward. ***Reuters***

LARGE BUT NOT FRAGRANT REUTERS

The pungent smelling Amorphophallus titanum, also known as the Titan arum, the world's largest flower, is tended to by Science and Collections coordinator Kath King at Kew Gardens, London, May 2. The phallic flower is a native of the rainforests of Sumatra. Only a few specimens have been cultivated.

HK priests linked to sex abuse

HONG KONG—Allegations that three Roman Catholic priests who worked in Hong Kong were involved in child sex abuse cases had many here demanding a fuller explanation and questioning Friday why the Church never told police.

"If the Church can tell us how to behave, but would trivialize such a serious crime, I would find it very difficult to carry on proclaiming my faith in the Church," said a radio call-in guest, identifying himself as a Catholic surnamed Hui.

Hong Kong's No. 2 government official, Chief Secretary Donald Tsang, who is a devout Catholic, called the abuses "unfortunate and against the law."

The news of the abuse in Hong Kong came amid an unfolding pedophile priest scandal in the United States. Many in Hong Kong were shocked that something similar could happen here.

Newspaper editorials questioned whether Church officials had attempted a coverup or had in effect condoned the abuses.

"Covering up for these priests who have breached the law is to give them an opportunity to continue harming other children," said the Chinese-language Ming Pao Daily.

The Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong said three priests who worked in Hong Kong were accused of molestation during the past 27 years, although it said one of the cases had occurred when the priest was stationed in a different country before coming to Hong Kong.

Two others were suspended from public ministry and one later left the priesthood, the Church said Thursday. It pledged a "zero tolerance policy" to remove any priests from public ministry if they are caught molesting children. ***AP***

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2. The AUSL law curriculum has been re-designed to respond to the reality of globalization, consistent with AUSL's mission to produce *globally oriented lawyers*. For indeed, the globalization of law is already happening and AUSL students are trained to deal with this development.

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4. AUSL also comes out with the quarterly *Arellano Law and Policy Review*, now formally included in the library collection of the Harvard School of Law Library.

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Patient sues doctor who used mobile phone during operation

HONG KONG—A patient is seeking damages from a Hong Kong doctor who took a personal call on his mobile telephone during an operation, officials said Friday.

Taxi driver Gary Chung wants unspecified compensation from Dr. Tung Hiu-ming, who took a personal call from another doctor during a colonoscopy—which examined Chung's intestine and colon—on May 13, 1999.

Chung's lawsuit also names the Hospital Authority, which manages Hong Kong's public hospitals, including the Queen Mary Hospital where he underwent surgery.

The authority's spokesperson, Connie Lau, confirmed the lawsuit but declined comment "in view of possible legal proceedings."

It was reported at the time of the surgery that Tung was discussing an automobile purchase, and his patient was conscious and could hear him. Chung had not received a general anesthetic.

Local newspapers said Friday Chung claims to have been injured by negligence on the part of the doctor and the Hospital Authority, but no specifics were mentioned and court officials said they could not immediately provide a copy of Chung's writ.

The Medical Council, an independent body that investigated the matter, had said earlier Tung did not commit professional misconduct—because he hung up quickly and Chung's health was not affected. ***AP***

7 dead in Brazil prison riot

SAO PAULO, Brazil—Rioting inmates killed seven of their own in a prison rebellion in southeast Brazil on Thursday before they surrendered and released jail officials they had taken hostage, police said.

"The five hostages, who are prison workers, have been freed," said a spokesperson for the Sao Paulo state penal administration secretary.

Local television showed aerial footage of the bodies of the seven inmates lying face down in a line in one of the prison yards in the detention center in Guarulhos, a Sao Paulo satellite city.

A military police spokesperson said earlier that some of the 641 inmates had rioted to demand transfers from the 940-inmate capacity facility.

A state prison official was on the scene and studying the possibility of transfers after order was restored.

Prison riots and jail breaks are common in Brazil's underfunded, often overcrowded, and unruly penal system. They are often bloody as rival gangs and inmates take advantage of the confusion to settle accounts. ***Reuters***

HOODED inmates stand over the bodies of seven dead prisoners in a courtyard of the Guarulhos Detention Center on the outskirts of Sao Paulo, May 2. REUTERS

65 Maoist rebs killed in Nepal

KATMANDU—At least 65 Maoist rebels were killed in clashes with security personnel in two western districts Thursday, Nepal's minister of state for home Devendra Raj Kandel said Friday.

About 25 were killed in an encounter in Boktang in Doti district, 398 km west of Katmandu, Kandel said.

Another 40 were killed in the Lisne area of Rolpa district, 298 km west of here.

"We are waiting for a detailed account on these clashes when the exact number of deaths can be substantiated," he said.

Local reports said as many as 60 rebels may have been killed at Lisne alone, where the insurgents had a training camp.

Nepalese language daily Kantipur said security personnel were combing the Lisne area when the rebels suddenly attacked them. It said 61 Maoists were killed in ensuing clashes.

The paper added that one soldier was killed and three others, including a soldier and two policemen, were seriously injured.

Military officials have not confirmed the soldier's death. ***AFP***

OWWA @ 20: Caring for OFW families... Creating entrepreneurial opportunities

Overseas Workers Welfare Administration

By Marrie P. Cruz

THE OVERSEAS Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) today marks a milestone in the overseas employment industry as it celebrates 20 years of continuously bringing relevant services for the overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and their families.

For the past 20 years, the OWWA established itself as a caring government institution that significantly caters to the welfare and well-being of the aptly-called the country's economic heroes. The Agency has, in many ways, touched base and made a difference in the lives of some 7.5 million OFWs working in over 200 countries worldwide.

On the occasion of this momentous event, a simple but meaningful celebration heralds the birth of the OWWA as the citadel of the country's modern-day heroes. Two decades of remarkable service centers on the theme "OWWA @ 20: Caring for OFW Families... Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities".

Labor migration at a glance

In the face of job scarcity in the country, overseas employment remains to be the option for many Filipinos. Although the government policy declares labor migration as only an option or a temporary economic measure, overseas employment remains a strong preference among the labor force.

After all, an overseas contract, for whatever its worth, is equated with green bucks or the all-powerful dollars—the lifeline to an empty stomach or a solution to financial woes of many Filipinos.

And while labor migration among Filipinos happen, the OWWA earnestly prepares for the migrant workers' return. Programs and measures are put into place for the eventual re-assimilation of OFWs to economic and psycho-socio mainstreams.

The migration of Filipinos hired for work overseas occurred in 1920s, when many of them were recruited to work in plantations in Hawaii and California.

During the 1950s Filipino migration shifted from the US to Asian countries, where the migrants worked as barbers, artists, musicians.

During the Indo-Chinese Wars in the 1960s, construction workers were recruited for the US Armed Forces.

In the 1970s, an exodus of mostly blue-collar workers to the Middle East countries began, as the countries in this region undertook massive infrastructure and developmental projects.

When the Philippine government formally adopted an overseas employment policy in 1974, it signified its official recognition of a new era in labor and employment policy.

In the 1980s, when OFW deployments were reaching an all-time high record, the government began realizing the increasing social and political impact of the Filipino migration phenomenon. Studies concerning labor migration were conducted to come up with necessary adjustments in creating a more solid and in-depth participation of the government in the regulation of the recruitment industry, which at that time has been largely handled by the private sector.

As this developed, the public became more concern with the safety of the Filipino migrant workers and the families they temporarily left behind.

Evolution of OWWA

May 1, 1977. Letter of Instruction (LOI) No. 537 signed by former President Ferdinand E. Marcos created the Welfare and Training Fund for Overseas Workers (WTFOW).

May 4, 1982. The Secretariat became operational with the primary task to administer the Fund. The Welfare Fund's twin mandate elicited a continuing challenge for the Agency to strike the optimum balance in managing the Fund while at the same time extending utmost programs and services to its bona fide beneficiaries.

January 30, 1987. By virtue of Executive Order No. 126 signed by then President Corazon C. Aquino, the Welfare Fund was renamed the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration or OWWA.

Public service spanning four decades. In 1982, the year the Welfare Fund for Overseas Workers became fully operational, three programs were initially developed comprising of burial gratuity, repatriation assistance and public assistance. Further, the Welfare Fund tied-up with Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) regional offices for the accessibility of the services accorded to the Filipino migrant workers and their families.

It was during this period that the skills development of the Filipino seafarers was given attention. The Seafarer's Training and Education was upgraded and Filipino seafarers in the international vessels registered a remarkable increase.

The concern on the plight of the Filipinos contracted abroad spawned the introduction of programs with the objectives of lessening homesickness among the Filipinos overseas. Thus, the "Hatid Saya Program" was introduced. The program, which has artists performing in concerts abroad, is a welcome respite to hundreds of OFWs.

In 1984, the 'Hatid-Tulong' and the 'Family Circles' were conceptualized to strengthen the bonding of the OFWs and their respective family members despite their temporary separation from one another. The community along with the government and other sectors of the society serve as the caretaker of the OFW's family in his absence.

The pre-departure loans have also been increased as a support mechanism to prospective Filipino nationals who wish to be employed abroad.

In 1986, after the EDSA 1 people power revolt, the thrust of the Welfare Fund focused on the Assets and Investments Management. The period also saw expansion of the reach of the Family circles to the grassroots level at the countryside.

The introduction and implementation of the Self Employment Entrepreneurship Development Program or SEED fortifies the Welfare Fund's concept to encourage the migrant workers to engage in productive endeavors after their respective stints abroad.

Welfare Officer Corps handle the predicaments and other job-related cases of the migrant workers at the work sites.

In the 1990s, the OWWA's star shined brightest at the height of the Gulf War crisis in 1990. The remarkable and systematic process of affecting the mobilization, evacuation and eventual repatriation of more than 60,000 Filipino nationals in Kuwait and about 3,000 Filipinos workers in Iraq as well as nearby countries trapped within the war-torn areas gave OWWA outstanding benchmark in government servitude.

Toward the year 1993, the Housing Program for OFWs through Pag-Ibig membership was also given due priority.

The Reintegration Program through Entrepreneurship mediation was also launched during the year.

Envisioning the establishment and the implementation of bigger and better program package for the OFWs and their families, the creation of the Medicare Program for OFWs and their Dependents in 1993 signaled a breakthrough in the migrant worker's desire for a complete health package. The Agency's Self-Insurance Scheme Program was also set-up.

It was also during this period the "Pamaskong Handog for OFWs" was launched to give tribute to Filipino migrant workers who arrived or vacationing.

OWWA remained unscathed at the height of the Flor Contemplacion-Delia Maga saga as the public realized the down-to-earth yet all-out support of the Agency to spare Flor from death.

The era of 1995 saw the rise of new and timely programs such as the OFW Family Day. Embarking on this project, the OWWA essentially put a special meaning to the OFW's family, the most important component in the life of a worker, the very reason for his decision to work abroad.

A special project termed "Summer Program for Musically-Inclined Dependents of OFWs" was warmly welcomed by the OFW sector. The project became an avenue to hone talents of the dependents of the migrant workers.

An all-important event also unfold during this era as it saw the birth of the "First National Seafarers Day," in recognition to the contribution of the Filipino seafarers.

True to its form, the Agency placed an assistance counter strategically located at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. The OWWA Repatriation/Airport Assistance Team propagates quality services that include facilitating the documents for the release of human remains, medical assistance to physically/mentally disturbed workers, escorting the OFWs from the Naia to their respective residences, ticketing assistance, temporary shelter at the OWWA Center, among others.

Recognizing the plight of displaced workers, the OWWA establishes the Reintegration, Placement and Monitoring Center.

The Program caters to OFWs and their dependents who wish to get their job referrals either here or abroad.

In 1998, in line with the pro-poor stance of the government, the OWWA implemented the Training Assistance Program for Food Production to encourage Filipino migrant workers at the countryside to engage in the food technology ventures.

At the turn of the new millennium, the OWA was instrumental in the implementation of the Congressional Migrant Workers Scholarship Program (CMWSP) where the OFWs and/or other Dependents are eligible to apply for the educational assistance leading to baccalaureate courses related to Science and Technology.

In year 2001, the Himig-Awit was launched, paving the way for the OFWs to display their talents through composition of songs. Also, the year constitutes and affirms the Agency's capability to respond to both nature and man-made disasters as it graciously extended assistance to the earthquake victims in Japan and in Taiwan, volcano and flash flood casualties in the Visayas and Mindanao areas.

By year 2002, and as the OWWA turns a new leaf, a milestone, the policy of the new Administration in the labor migration such that going abroad for overseas Filipino workers becomes a "choice rather than a necessity" typifies the Agency's thrust in giving the utmost care to OFWs as well creating entrepreneurial opportunities the country's economic heroes rightfully deserved.

The Agency's horizon expands through continuous networking with the church groups, the nongovernment organizations and people's organizations. Programs and services were formulated from sincere dialogues with the OFW organizations, associations, and groups.

OWWA prepares the road for the returning OFWs. But beyond the business opportunities the government offers to the returning workers, the OWWA prepares a psychosocial climate where the OFWs can integrate back to the mainstream of the society when they finally return home to stay.

OWWA remains the OFWs' partner in the realization of their dreams. Not only a shoulder to cry on. Never reactionary but pro-active. A caring, sensitive well-meaning institution, a by-word in the OFWs' lingo by any language. OWWA and the OFWs... we are one.

MESSAGES

MY warmest felicitations to the men and women of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) on your 20th Anniversary.

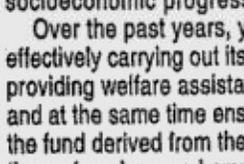
I commend you for your unwavering commitment in protecting and promoting the interests and welfare of the Filipino Overseas Workers (OFW's) and their families. This strong commitment is what our country needs as it moves towards achieving the goal of political stability and socioeconomic progress.

Over the past years, your office has been effectively carrying out its two-fold mandate of providing welfare assistance to our OFW's and at the same time ensuring the viability of the fund derived from the collective contributions of workers and employers. The OWWA also contributed to the enhancement of their social, economic and cultural well-being.

I hope this event will inspire you to continue your dedication to the welfare of the Filipino overseas working man and woman. May you intensify your skills and livelihood development program for them and their families, I also count on you as my administration's ally in improving the moral standards of government and society. With your strong commitment to pursue your mandate, we will achieve the fulfillment of our common vision of a more peaceful and prosperous Philippines.

Mabuhay.

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines



ALLOW me to commend my warmest felicitations – and my optimism that it will achieve a great deal more for Filipino workers abroad – to the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) on the occasion of its 20th anniversary on May 4, 2002.

An attached agency of the DOLE, OWWA has gone a long way in the first two decades of its existence. Providing welfare assistance to overseas Filipino workers and their dependents, OWWA has expanded its services so that its operations now span oceans and continents. But despite these, it remains vulnerable to criticisms – perhaps due to the size of its clientele and the magnitude of its problems and challenges. But through all these, OWWA has managed to push on, improving its programs and launching new ones.

As it turns a year older, OWWA is expected to become more effective in advancing the welfare of its clients, particularly the families and dependents left behind by our hardworking OFWs. Sooner or later, OWWA should be able to truly mitigate the social costs of labor migration. It should be able to make OFWs and their families feel that government truly cares even as overseas employment continues to grow.

In behalf of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), I wish OWWA success in all its future endeavors. To the men and women of the agency, I trust that you will become more responsive to the need of your clients, and will continue to perform beyond what is expected of you – through sincere, caring and proactive programs for our OFWs to whom the nation owes much.

Mabuhay kayo.

PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS
Secretary
Department of Labor and Employment

MY WARMEST congratulations and regards to the officers and employees of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) as the Agency reaches a milestone in public service.

I feel doubly elated to be part of the 20th year Founding Anniversary Celebration of the Agency that continuously provides relevant and meaningful service to the millions of overseas Filipino workers and their families.

Through the years, throughout the many high and lows of overseas employment program, OWWA has remained steadfast to its commitment to excellence. Two decades of relevant and timely assistance and services have earned the Agency a well-deserved reputation of a caring institution.

And on this occasion, we are also honoring our partners in service from the government and non-government organizations, church-based organizations and overseas employment providers.

Simple yet meaningful celebration marks the milestone. And as promised, the Agency will continue to serve the interest of the clients and sustain the commitment to make a difference in the lives of the overseas Filipino workers.

Happy Foundation Day and manuhay!

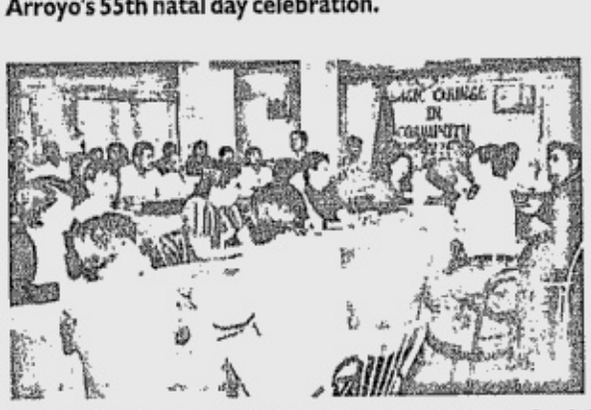
WILHELM. SORIANO
Administrator
Overseas Workers Welfare
Administration

OWWA chief, Wilhelm D. Soriano (wearing white barong) and First Gentle man Mike Arroyo (wearing blue jacket) escort OFW Mary Jane Ramos upon her arrival from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) at the Ninoy International Airport (NAIA) last March 2002, Said OFW was recently acquitted of the crime for killing her employer in 1997.

THE OVERSEAS Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) recently held a triple treat for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and their families last April 5, 2002. Composed of a "Magnegosyo Forum," Quick Release Claim and free medical mission served as the agency's birthday offering to Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's 55th natal day celebration.

OWWA Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signing with Episcopal Commission for Pastoral Care for Migrant and Itinerant Workers (ECMI-CBCP) represented by Bishop Ramon Arguelles.

MS. MAI Dizon Anonuevo, Executive Director representing Balikbayani Foundation a Non-Government Organization (NGO) (in black) and OWWA Administrator Wilhelm D. Soriano, (in barong) sign a joint declaration of support for the First National Conference on OFW Reintegration.



OWWA Administrator (middle, foreground with microphone) Wilhelm D. Soriano, joined by First Gemtleman Mike Arroyo, stresses a point during one of the consulations held with OWWA's regional officers.

OWWA chief, Wilhelm D. Soriano, personally supervises the transfer of comatose patient OFW Arnel Quirap to St. Luke's Medical Center upon his arrival from the United Arab Emirates (UAE). With the Administrator inside the NAIA medical facility is Quirap's mother and on duty- NAIA medical personnel.

Home is also a land of opportunity for the OFWs

OWWA's reintegration program helps Pinoys returning home to start a business and no longer be away from his or her family.

For many Filipinos working abroad, the sad experience of leaving behind families and loved ones is often hard to bear. Much harder to bear for the OFWs is the effect of such situation on their children, who see them only occasionally.

In line with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's program for the OFWs, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration adopts some policy redirections to help returning OFWs reintegrate with their families and their communities when they return home.

Wilhelm Soriano, OWWA Administrator, says the department has already set up a comprehensive reintegration program for the OFWs that involves seminars and counseling programs for the families of the OFWs and livelihood projects to help OFWs start their own businesses.

OWWA has also started a "membership" campaign to encourage Filipinos working abroad without documentation to file for OWWA membership. Soriano says this will enable OFWs easier access to assistance particularly when they encounter problems abroad.

Part of the comprehensive reintegration program is the livelihood assistance given to returning OFWs. The assistance provides loans to help OFWs start their own businesses in their communities.

"The reintegration program allows for any family member of the OFW to attend a seminar or a formal training about small and medium enterprise to help them set up their own business. This also include the reassimilation of OFWs into the economic and psycho-social mainstream," says Soriano.

The OWWA has targeted the top 10 provinces where OFWs come from and these provinces will serve as pilot areas where OWWA will set up offices to undertake the reintegration program. The OWWA, as directed by Arroyo, will also develop a program that will provide social counseling to children of OFWs as well as the OFWs.

Filipino nationals working abroad now number to about 7 million. High concentration of them is in the US/Canada, the Middle East and the Asia Pacific regions. Soriano says of the figure, an estimated 2 million Filipinos abroad are still undocumented.

About $6- to 8 billion a year are remitted by Filipinos working abroad, according to Soriano.

OWWA's 20th celebration today will also serve as an opportunity to give recognition to OWWA's social partners which include senators Blas Ople and Frank Drilon. OWWA will also honor church-based organizations NGOs, government offices and overseas employment providers.

Soriano says OWWA's policy direction for the next 20 years is towards establishing more livelihood opportunities and social program for the families of the OFWs for them not to seek overseas employment abroad anymore and strengthening the OFW's family as the basic unit of society.

"OFWs will be the investors of the country and overseas employment will be the last option of Filipinos. Likewise, going back to basic family values are what we are after, acknowledging - social cost of migration that's what we want again to establish," says Soriano. Perhaps, the message here is that Filipinos can do their best, and contribute the most when they are in the comfort and security of their own homeland.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2002

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi35° Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 26° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 36° Lo 23°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 35° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 26°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 26°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 26°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 34° Lo 25°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/05/04/02

Cops hit for probe of foreigners in Labor Day protests

BAGUIO CITY—Police have started checking the backgrounds of six foreign participants in the Labor Day march here on Wednesday to comply with a Bureau of Immigration directive that forbids foreigners from joining political rallies.

BI Commissioner Andrea Domingo stressed in her Tuesday order that foreigners who participate in the May 1 rally are to be considered "threats" to national security, public order and the national interest and could therefore be arrested and deported.

Local police and military intelligence units noted the presence of five Japanese and an American who marched down Session Road alongside some 250 Cordillera workers and activists.

But the Cordillera Peoples Alliance denounced the supposed investigation, saying their foreign guests were representatives of an International Youth Congress that was held here last week.

The CPA said the BI ruling was meant to prevent "negative news" such as protests over the controversial Balikatan military exercises, from spreading overseas.

Officials of the intelligence division of the Baguio City police said they already submitted their report to the Cordillera police office with a request to check the backgrounds of the foreigners from their embassies in the country.

"Their presence is unusual, it is the first time that foreigners participated in such a rally," a police source said.

But the CPA said foreign guests have always graced many of their civic actions.

Myra Caragan, a member of the CPA-affiliated Innabuyog-Metro Baguio, said most of their foreign visitors join their activities in the spirit of international solidarity.

The visitors were mostly members of the Buraku Liberation League who fight for the human rights condition of Buraku (Japanese for black), a tiny village of blacksmiths, maids and carpenters who are supposedly treated as menials in Japan, said Wada Kenichi, the group's spokesperson.

They were participants in an International Conference in Indigenous Youth that was sponsored by the CPA. They also joined the CPA in Kalinga during the April 24 celebrations of Cordillera Day.

The CPA also invited a Caucasian female who is on an internship program for the CPA.

The police failed to include several Filipino-Americans, who routinely travel to the country to join CPA mass actions.

In their report, police said that the foreigners had no significant role in Wednesday's rally. "They came here only to solicit support for the so-called Sayama trial case," the police source said. ***Jovelyn Reyes and Desiree Caluza, with a report from Katrina Agnes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

War games planes told to fly higher

By Tonette Orejas and Abner Bolos
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Swamped with complaints from residents, officials of Balikatan 02-2 on Wednesday adjusted the flight altitude and routes of aircraft participating in the military exercise involving 6,000 Filipino and American troops in Luzon.

The Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFACom), an inter-agency body monitoring the conduct of the war games, said Air Force officials of the Philippines and United States "immediately took the necessary action to address the residents' complaints."

These pertained to noises and risks of crashes from 36 aircraft from the US Air Force and 20 from the Philippine Air Force.

Maria Alnee Arugay, VFACom monitor officer, said the flight altitude was increased to more than 1,000 feet to "reduce noises as (planes) pass over the communities."

Military aircraft in the Balikatan contingent used to fly at a high of 300 feet, PAF Col. Danilo Ferrer earlier told the INQUIRER.

Arugay also said in a statement here that "alternate routes for departure and approach of aircraft are now being followed." She did not specify the new routes and in what provinces these are being observed.

Flight routes

In Pampanga, aircraft used to fly over the cities of Angeles and San Fernando and the towns of Mabalacat and Magalang. The aircraft are also known to fly over eastern Zambales and northern Tarlac.

Arugay said the "exception to these changes is the cargo-dropping exercises of the C-130 aircraft whose low-flying approach is confined within Clark and happens only during the afternoon."

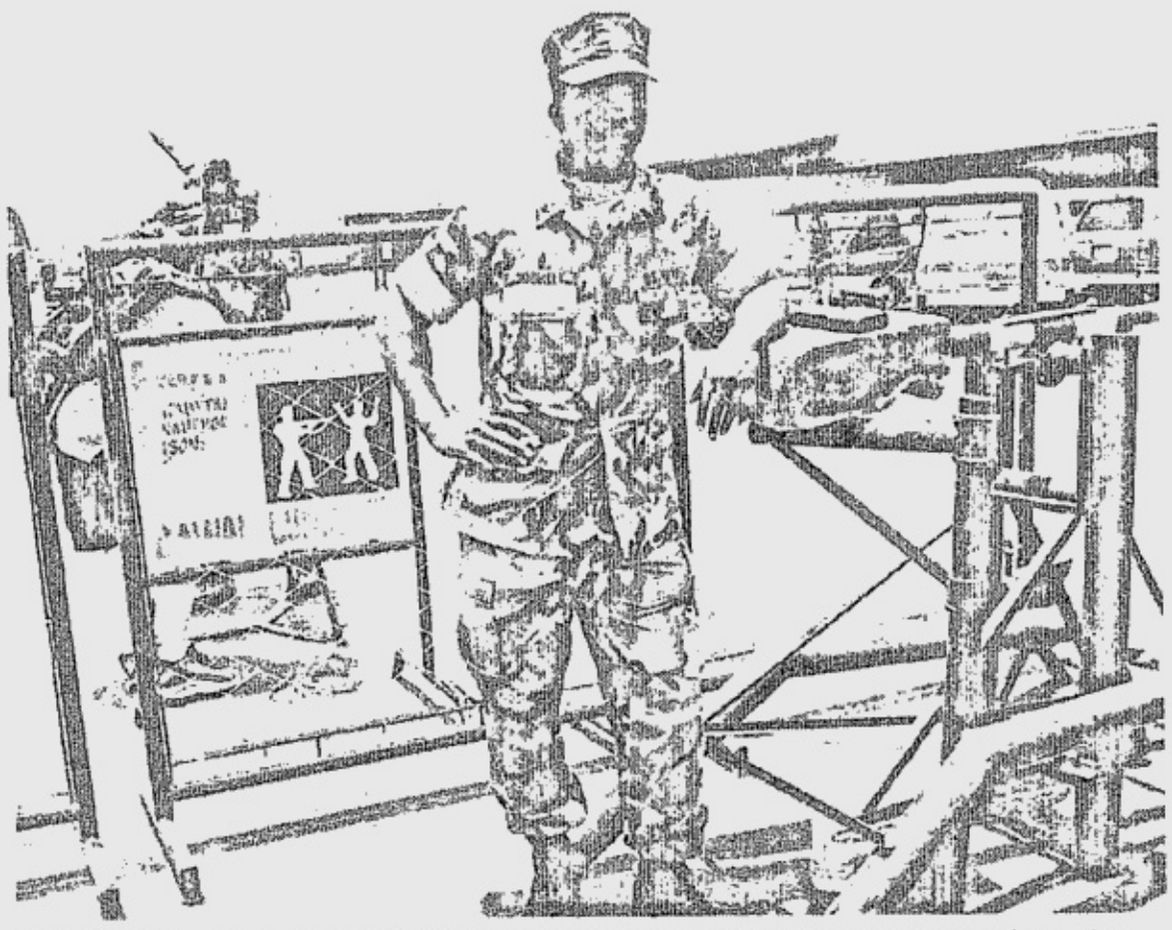
She said Balikatan Air Force directors had assured the VFACom that they would "address any further complaints from the communities involving aircraft participating in the Balikatan exercises."

It was not stated in the statement if the adjustments would be applied to future Balikatan exercises. These are annual exercises held under the VFA, which the Philippine Senate ratified in 1999 to regulate the activities of US troops.

In a related development, officials on Monday lifted the suspension of flights of 18 aircraft in the Balikatan contingent.

These and another MG520 had been grounded since Saturday following the crash of an MG520 attack helicopter on the south ramp of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport here last Friday.

Ferrer said the engine of the wrecked MG520 was taken to the Atienza Air Base in Sangley, Cavite, for inspection to determine the exact cause of the crash. The other MG520 remained grounded, he said.



AN AMERICAN soldier taking part in war games in Clark stands alongside a sign warning intruders against trespassing. TOOTS SOBERANO

Aetas' plight

In Capas, Tarlac, the 76 Aeta families displaced by the ongoing Balikatan military exercises in Barangay Sta. Juliana here are hoping the worst is over.

They have endured two weeks being exposed to the elements, sheltered only by makeshift dwellings made of bamboo and banana leaves, beside a military bunker in Sitio Dalayupon at the Crow Valley firing range here.

Marly Diaz, an Aeta native who visited her relatives at the sitio on April 28, said the displaced families were not allowed to leave the area since they were transferred by soldiers at the start of the military exercises two weeks ago.

The families came from Sitio Tarukan, 3 km away from the bunker.

She said authorities reneged on their promise to provide tents and sufficient food.

"Two babies were born in Dalayupon at the height of the training and another two babies barely two months old were among those transferred. It rained that night and we were all drenched," Diaz said in Kapampangan.

She said the rice ration of about four kilograms for each family was intended for four days but it was not enough and lasted only for two days.

Restricted

She said they could not augment their food supply because they were restricted from leaving the area even to gather food from their farms.

Former Aeta village chieftain Ramon Diaz explained that the transfer was made for the safety of the families. He said Sitio Tarukan is very near the target site and that training officials do not want the villagers harmed.

He said authorities promised to take the families back to Tarukan on May 1. The exercises are expected to end on May 6.

Diaz said authorities do not want a repeat of an incident that happened in the early 1980s in Sitio Tarukan where the house of a certain Apung Maria was directly hit by a bomb. No casualties were reported then but the villagers were asked to transfer to a place far from the training site after being paid for property they had to leave behind.

Residents here said helicopter gun ships unleash rocket and machine gun fires at very low altitudes even at night. They said this year's training is more intense as more rocket and machine gun fires are used.

Priest slain by Abu Sayyaf remembered

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The commemoration of the death of Claretian priest Fr. Rhoel Gallardo was capped by the launching of a scholarship program named after him.

Fr. Angel Calvo, also a Claretian Missionary, told the INQUIRER that the scholarship program was aimed at continuing the interrupted work of the slain priest among the poor people of Basilan.

Also commemorated were the deaths of the three teachers, whom the Abu Sayyaf killed along with Father Gallardo in 2000.

Gallardo and 27 others, including the teachers, were taken hostage by the Abu Sayyaf after the bandits raided the Claret High School in Tumahubong, Basilan on March 20, 2000.

"We cannot afford to lose the memory of these people who were very significant to us and the whole community," Calvo said.

Bishop Martin Jumoad celebrated Mass for Gallardo and slain teachers Editha Lumame, Anabelle Mendoza and Ruben Democrito around 5:30 p.m. yesterday.

Two years after Gallardo and the other victims were killed, Calvo said the Abu Sayyaf menace is far from gone.

"I'm very skeptical about the military solving the problem in Basilan, they have not make any significant changes in terms of peace and order," Calvo said. ***Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Army says ex-priest now heads communists in Central Visayas

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—A former priest, who led the National Democratic Front (NDF) negotiating panel in Cebu in 1987, now heads the communist rebel movement in Central Visayas.

Rustico Tan was identified as the new leader of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) in the region in a briefing manuscript of the Philippine Army's 302nd Brigade, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER.

The manuscript was read during a recent meeting of the Bohol Provincial Peace and Order Council here. This was the first time that Tan's name surfaced as the top rebel in the region, confirming earlier claims that there had been a change of command within the NDF in Central Visayas.

The same manuscript claimed that Roy Erecre, who was the region's top cadre for a long time, had been "elevated" to a higher position. Military intelligence sources alleged that Erecre is now based in Luzon and sits in the CPP central committee.

The Army manuscript said five of the rebels' seven fronts in Central Visayas are based in Bohol. The two others—Front 2 and 5—are based in Cebu, the paper said.

In previous reports, the military explained that while there had been an increase in the number of fronts from four to seven, there was actually a decline in the number of active rebel regulars and in its mass base.

The paper said that Front 1, also known as the Alfonso Alban Command, is headed by NDF-CV spokesperson Silvino Clamucha.

The Front 3, or Francisco Dagohoy Command, is led by ex-seminarian Ronald Sendrijas. Danilo Badayos heads the Front 4 or Arnulfo Mendez Command.

The head of the newly created Marvin Marquez Command or Front 6 is known only by the *nom-de-guerre* Ferry. Marquez, leader of Anak Bayan in Cebu, was among the rebels killed in an encounter with soldiers in Bohol in 2000.

The Front 7, which is composed of two squads, is another new front. It is not known who heads this unit.

The paper said the total number of communist rebels in Bohol was reduced from 352 to 265 while the number of firearms dropped from 253 to 153.

It claimed that 52 barangays in Bohol are considered influenced with Front 1 the most successful with 37 villages in its sphere of influence. A barangay is categorized as influenced when the rebels have established political organizations there.

On Samar Island, 248 hinterland villages are now under the control of communist rebels, according to the military.

Samar, the country's third largest island that is composed of three provinces, has a total of 2,121 barangays.

The military reported in a recent meeting of the provincial peace and order council (PDCC) in Catba-logan, Samar, that the province has 101 villages that are under the control of the communist rebels, according to the Philippine Information Agency in Tacloban City, Leyte.

During that same meeting, a certain Major Saret of the Army's 8th Infantry Division based in Catbalogan also reported that there were 94 barangays in Northern Samar and 53 barangays in Eastern Samar that are controlled by the Communist Party of the Philippines. ***With a report from Vicente Labro, PDI Visayas Bureau***

NFA plans robbery case against farmers

BACOLOD CITY—The National Food Authority (NFA) is filing a complaint of robbery against 11 leaders of the 500 farmers who broke into its warehouse on Labor Day and took 10 sacks of rice.

NFA Bacolod manager Loreto Perez said his office was preparing the affidavits of witnesses for the filing of the complaint before the Bacolod City Prosecutors' Office.

He said the farmers damaged the steel door of their warehouse on Gatuslao Street here, which would cost the agency P75,000 to repair.

His office, he added, chose to file charges against the leaders of the farmers who had admitted that what they did was wrong.

Perez identified these leaders are Rafael Artu and Ronilo Dableo of Murcia town; Alberto Mejer and Judy Maligan of Moises Padilla town; Nenita Darafina and Larry Datog of La Castellana town; Rebecca Sabio of Isabela town; Jeboy Gonzales of Binalbagan town; Jina Reyes of Himamaylan City; Andre Mirasol of La Carlota City and Gloria Sayo of Talisay City.

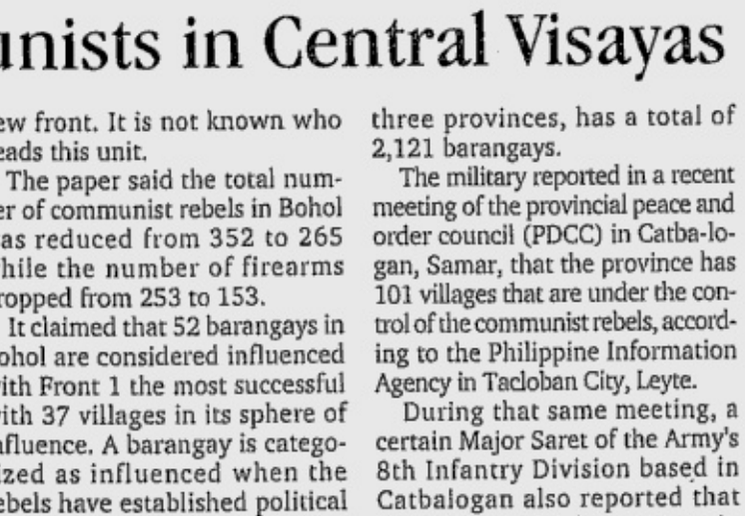
About 500 farmers ransacked the NFA warehouse about 11:50 a.m. on Wednesday, claiming that they were hungry and that Gov. Joseph Marañon had not met with them.

They tried to break into the warehouse again to get more sacks of rice at 5 p.m. of the same day but were foiled by about 50 policemen armed with shields.

The group was part of the 7,000 farm workers who were staying in front of the Provincial Administration Center here since Tuesday to demand a meeting with Gov. Joseph Marañon.

They started going home on Wednesday night shortly after their dialogue with Marañon who promised to provide them 30 sacks of rice. He also told the farmers that he would form Task Force Gutom to address the reported lack of food in the hinterlands.

The farmers, who came from different towns and cities in Negros Occidental, wanted the provincial government to provide them food, medicines and livelihood assistance, claiming that they were starving in their homes because the dry spell had wilted their crops. They could not also find employment because the milling season would start in September yet. ***Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***



GARLIC FEST PHOTO FROM ILOCOS SUR GOV'T

Ilocos Sur Gov. Deogracias Victor Savellano (in checkered shirt) and Sinait Mayor Edgar Yabes (with hat) inspect bundles of garlic that were presented during the first Sinait Garlic Festival held May 1-3.

INQUIRER Visayas
Editor Jun Bandayrel • Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Guimaras mangoes prepare to invade US

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
Iloilo City

"IT was worth the wait."

This was the elated reaction of Guimaras Gov. Rahman JC Nava to news that Guimaras mangoes will finally be shipped to the United States after more than 10 years of trying to comply with stringent quarantine standards.

Nava said the news is now a source of pride for the island province. It came just as Guimaras is gearing for its annual Manggahan Festival on May 15 to 22.

Guimaras expects to send its mangoes next week to California, after a coding system, which identifies growers and where they come from, is finalized. Shipping mangoes to the US was a dream of Guimaras officials and farmers all these years.

Guimaras has prepared its mangoes for the US market since the 1990s. Through a "reverse quarantine," the province banned mangoes from other places to prevent the entry of seed (*Sternochetus angiferae*) and pulp weevil (*Sternochetus frigidies*), the two dreaded pests of mangoes, and the oriental fruit fly, which is a quarantine pest in the US, Australia and other countries.

Quarantine personnel were posted at the major wharves of Guimaras to confiscate green or ripe mango fruits, seeds and plants coming from other places. Officials admitted that it was not easy guarding the long coastline of the island, the size of Singapore.

Guimaras' western and eastern sides are 15 to 20 minutes by motorized boats from Iloilo City and Pulupandan in Negros Occidental.

Officials from the Guimaras-based National Mango Research Center said there is no known study to show that the Philippines has seed or pulp weevil. But an early 1900s map unfortunately marked countries in Southeast Asia as those having the pesky weevils. In 1995 and 1996 the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) surveyed Guimaras and certified the island as seed and pulp-weevil free, a move that kept mango growers and local officials dreaming of a foothold in the rich US market.

Unblemished mangoes

There is no oriental fruit fly in Guimaras although there are two native species of fruit fly that feed on the island's major fruits like mango, guava, papaya, *kalamansi*, *santol*, chico and cashew pulp.

To produce unblemished mangoes, the government, through the National Mango Research and Development Center (NMRDC) in Guimaras, moved in on these two fruit flies (*Bactrocera philippinensis; B. occipitalis*) by annihilating the male fruit flies and introducing sterile fruit flies to mate with the wild local ones.

Annihilating the male fruit flies checks the fruit fly population, said Helen Bignayan, a senior agriculturist at the NMRDC. This is done by hanging a board laced with methyl eugenol, an attractant with a smell similar to a female fruit fly in heat, and Malathion, a potent poison. The sterile fruit flies were flown from the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute in Quezon City and released in orchards, backyards and forested areas in Guimaras. The gamma-irradiated fruit flies would produce no offspring when they mate with the wild fruit flies on the island.

The first annihilation of male fruit flies was done in April 1997 while the first release of sterile fruit flies occurred the following year. Killing the male species was supposed to be a yearly practice but lack of funds prevented its full-scale implementation. For example, the NMRDC released only some 7 million gamma-irradiated fruit flies a month from April to September last year when the ideal number was 12.5 million to 15 million. In its year-end report, the center said that the 12.5 million sterile flies were needed to attain an ideal ratio of one wild fruit fly for every 100 sterile ones.

Bignayan said that the NMRDC requested for P2.4 million for its fruit fly elimination program. However only P500,000 was granted by the DA in 2001. The limited budget reduced the number of sterile flies and did not allow them to release the flies from the air to penetrate forested areas on the island.

The NMRDC hopes that the DA restores the budget this year when Guimaras is already exporting its mangoes to the US.

High price

The decision to quarantine the island province in 1992, pushed by then governor Emily Lopez, came with a high price and was a sour note in the region's mango industry. It led to the closure of one of the biggest fruit-processing factory in the country, the Atlas Agri-business Corp., owned by the Sorianos. The plant at Buenavista, Guimaras employed some 800 workers during the peak season to process mangoes, passion fruit, papaya, pineapple, guava and sour sop into puree, juices, dried fruit bits and slices.

Aurelio Lopez (no relation to the former governor), then operations manager of the fruit processing plant recalled asking the Regional Development Council (RDC) in 1992 to exempt the plant from the quarantine but to no avail. Guimaras then could not distribute all Atlas mangoes, and the factory was getting its fruits from Mindanao, Negros, Cebu and Panay.

The DA finally allowed Atlas to pulp its mangoes in Iloilo City before ferrying it to Guimaras to ensure that no seed enters the island. But the process was redundant and expensive that Atlas stopped operations in 1993 and relocated to Bulacan.

Farmers in Iloilo, who were subcontracted to plant papaya, sour sop, passion fruit and pineapple, were also hurt by the Atlas pullout. Lopez said the closure of Atlas was a big loss for Guimaras and Iloilo fruit growers.

"The US market is a pie in the sky. It may come but it would not make a difference in the lives of many backyard mango growers because of the sheer cost of meeting the stringent standards of fresh mangoes in the foreign market. With processed products, there are no restrictions," said Lopez in an interview.

GUIMARAS' passion for mangoes is carried into the streets by performers in clothes with mango motifs during the province's annual Manggahan Festival. FILE/GUIJO DUENAS

Guimaras is not a top producer of mangoes in the country though. The top 10 performers are Pangasinan (29 percent), Isabela (14 percent), Negros Occidental, Zamboanga del Norte, Nueva Vizcaya (4 percent each), Bulacan, Iloilo and South Cotabato (3 percent each) and Cebu (2 percent). But Guimaras wants to position itself as the source of pest-free and the sweetest carabao mango variety.

Preparing for the US market

Ronnie Morante, officer in charge of the provincial agriculture office, said that what makes Guimaras unique is its full quarantine policy that makes it the only province capable of meeting strict import standards abroad.

He said that it was worth all the trouble that Guimaras had to be sealed off for 10 years because no other province in the country could claim before the US market that their mangoes are pest-free.

Morante said that in June last year, the Federal Register, a gazette of the USDA, wrote that Guimaras mangoes are finally accepted in the US market. He said the announcement came as a surprise because negotiations between the Philippines and the US were yet to start in October last year.

The news buoyed the spirits of Guimaras officials and mango growers. Morante said the provincial government allotted funds to support the mango growers in preparation for their entry to the US market. He said loans would be given to help backyard growers that supply 80 percent of the 16,000 metric tons of mangoes produced by Guimaras in one fruiting season.

When shipped to the US, Guimaras mangoes could enter all states in the US, except Florida, after the fruits comply with the procedures imposed by the USDA, among them Vapor Heat Treatment (VHT) to kill the fruit fly, anthracnose and stem-end rot. The privately owned VHT plant, located at the Food Terminal Complex in Taguig, Metro Manila, charges at least P20 per treatment for every kilo of mango.

Nava said he would push for the establishment of a VHT plant in Guimaras to make it easy for mango growers to pack their fruits for export. A VHT plant costs P30 million. Guimaras mangoes, after undergoing VHT, can be accepted in Japan.

Other mango-growing provinces have already cornered foreign markets like Hong Kong, China, Singapore, Brunei, United Kingdom, France, Canada and Switzerland.

Australia, however, has beaten the US market by a year. Guimaras mangoes were first shipped to Australia in May 2001, after three years of working to meet quarantine requirements. The shipment of 1.2 metric tons was sent to Australia via Manila to undergo quarantine check and VHT treatment. The export was timed when Australian mangoes were off-season.

Super mangoes

In Australia, Guimaras mangoes are known as Philippine or Manila Super Mangoes.

Nava, who attended the diplomatic launch in Australia, was excited about the demand of the Australian market for Philippine mangoes, especially in the Northern Territory. He met with fruit and food importers who promised to import Guimaras mangoes during the winter months.

Mango growers were lukewarm to sending their fruits to Australia last year. Morante said that farm gate price of the agent for Australia was only P20 a kilo last year, much lower than when the fruits were sold in the local market. When shipped to Iloilo, Cebu or Manila, class A Guimaras mangoes sell for at least P35 a kilo. "We told the farmers to go for volume when exporting mangoes. They have to organize themselves to get better prices," said Morante.

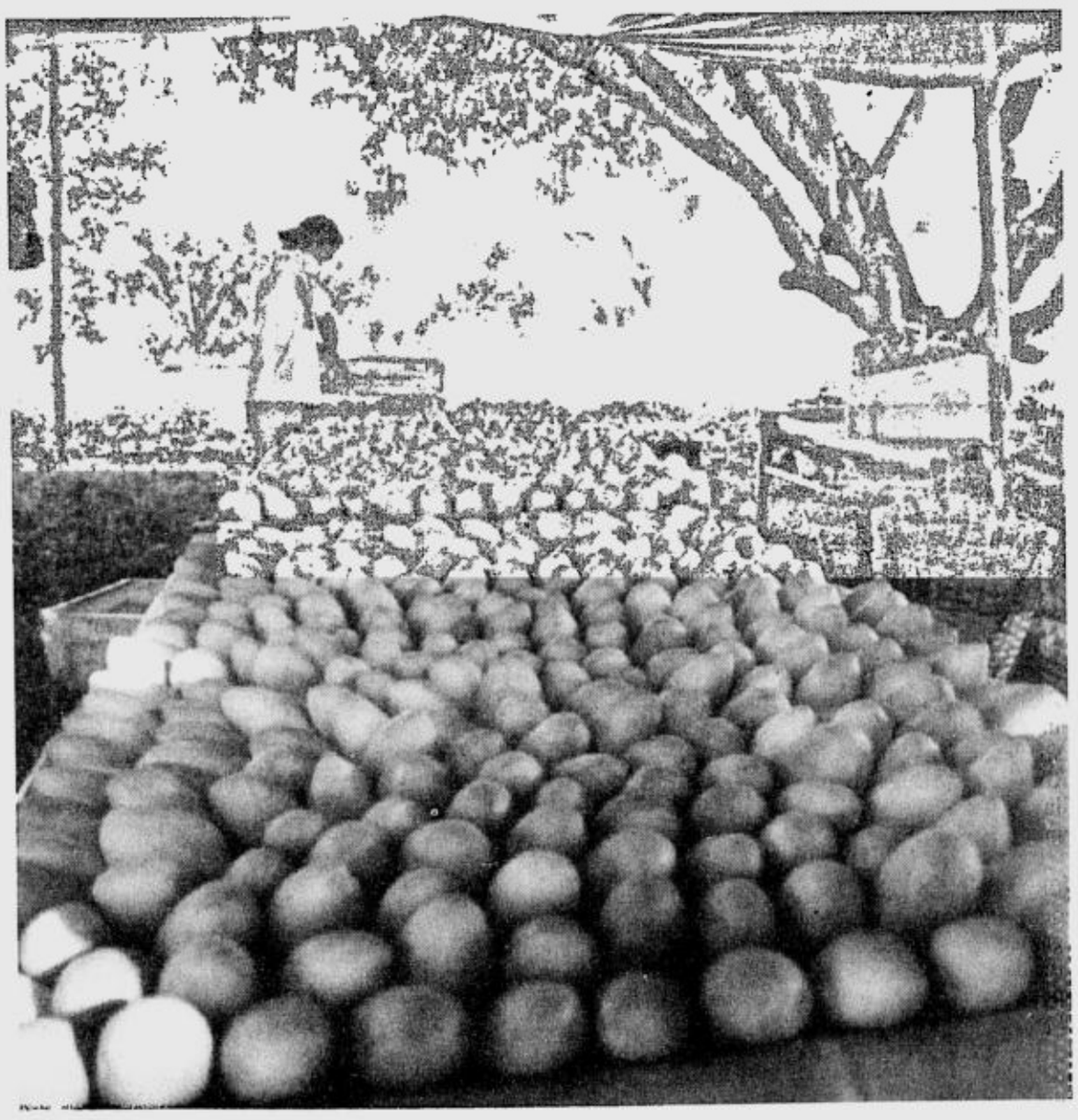
But prices have improved this year. Exporters are offering mango growers a higher price of P38 a kilo compared to P18 to P24 a kilo prevailing in local markets.

Diosdado Magbanua, assistant regional director of the Department of Agriculture (DA) for Western Visayas said that Australia's demand for fresh mangoes from Guimaras is five to 10 tons per week for four months since February. However he said that there is a need to improve post-harvest technology because only 5 to 10 percent of Guimaras mangoes passed Australian quality standards.

European market

Magbanua said that after US and Australia, Guimaras pest-free mangoes could make it to the lucrative European market. But while Europeans like the exotic taste of Philippine mangoes, they dislike its color. Magbanua said that there is an ongoing study to produce a reddish mango to cater to the European market.

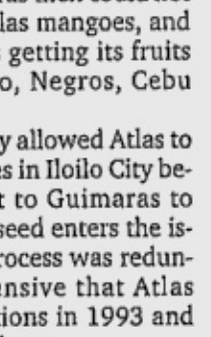
Magbanua said the DA plans to survey mangoes in the provinces of Iloilo, Aklan, Antique and Capiz, for pulp and seed weevil. If found free of the dreaded pests, Panay could support the future demand for fresh mangoes to the US, Australia, and Europe. But only if other Panay provinces would have the patience and determination of Guimaras.



MANGOES, Guimaras' pride. ERNA FOERSTER

'Kangaroo court'

BREAKAWAY



Ivan P. Suansing

SOMETHING strange is going on at the Cebu campus of the University of the Philippines (UP), home to blooming intellectuals, free thinkers and wild Oblation runners.

In an unprecedented decision, UP officials suspended for a month six student editors for publishing a critical editorial in "Tug-ani," the official UP-Cebu student publication. The suspension proved costly as it prevented four of the editors from graduating last month and diminished campus press freedom.

Notwithstanding the sound of its title, "Damnation of the Damned," the editorial was lacking in fireworks and caustic commentaries that UP editors are known for.

I asked Wilfredo Rodolfo III, the editor in chief, what he thought was the harshest diatribe they had launched against their target—the Board of Examiners that selected the "Tug-ani" staff—and got a dud.

"We accused them of hocus-pocus and half-baked, questionable, irregular, unjust and unfair practices," he said. One has to be so onion-skinned, or so guilty, to be hurt by such a general, benign statement.

What's the meat of the students' grievance? Alleged irregularities in the selection of student editors. That's just like complaining about Comelec fraud or other electoral skullduggery, a most valid concern.

Specifically, Rodolfo and his group slammed the conduct of the first "Tug-ani" examination. Grace Gay Cabellon, the student representative to the Board of Examiners, was not given a chance to rate the applicants. Cabellon didn't even know what the criteria were.

When the results were posted on the bulletin board, the examiners kept changing the rankings—until the densest student on campus finally sensed something was fishy.

Because of the fracas, the board was forced to hold a second examination, allowing Rodolfo and his editors to take over the helm. But then, the UP editors had decided to expose the flaws in the selection process in the editorial that raised their teachers' hackles.

The student disciplinary tribunal, the campus version of the kangaroo court, was tasked with "trying" the students. Despite its name, the tribunal was really not compelled to "discipline" the respondents if evidence didn't warrant it. Its members must have felt otherwise.

Obviously reading something else, the tribunal ruled that the six UP writers "violated the Philippine Journalist's Code of Ethics."

The tribunal said editor in chief Rodolfo, section editors Fatima de la Cerna, Maria Rosario Consuelo Tumulak, Gay Abenir, Carla Camille Basa-Martinez and Mary Louise Eugenio should be suspended for "gross and deliberate discourtesy."

It, however, forgot to order that the name of the UP-Cebu paper be changed. "Tug-ani," which literally means "speak up," has no place in a school that would rather have its student leaders speak in timorous whispers.

The basis for the penalty is a joke. Courtesy is a desirable virtue, but not one that may be reasonably required of aggrieved student editors who feel their own teachers have screwed them.

The UP writers may even be faulted for their use of innocuous language when they should have been spewing fire, and for later on, apologizing, even if without retracting, to their officials.

The "Tug-ani" student editors had every right to air their grievances, their opinion, in their paper. That's academic freedom, although in this case, one may also call it payback.

I'm sure UP President Francisco Nemenzo, freedom advocate and nationalist academician, will have something to say about this.

Gloria told: No shame in running in 2004

THE GANG'S all here for the political summit: Rep. Imee Marcos is dressed and groomed to the nines. Right photo, from left: Raul Daza, Ernesto Maceda and Speaker Jose de Venecia. ERIK ARAZAS

Gloria urges debate, not coups

From page A1

also brought down interest rates and stabilized the peso-dollar rate.

The President cautioned lawmakers seeking to amend the Constitution.

She told them that they overlooked certain "prerequisites" for the proposed shift to a parliamentary form of government and to federalism.

The President said the proposed component states should first be politically and economically ready for statehood.

"Otherwise, federalism could lead to further underdevelopment of the less developed regions of the country," she said.

She said the transition should be from a regional economic zone, to autonomy, then to statehood.

The President said a shift to a parliamentary system would require several political reforms, including modernizing the electoral system and subsidizing political parties.

She said the subsidy would help reduce the reliance of political parties on dirty money and power brokers.

In most First World countries, the government subsidizes the electoral expenses of political parties.

Ms Macapagal said a change in the character of politics was required before any shift in the form of government.

The "politics of personality and patronage must give way to a new politics of party programs and process of dialogue with the people," she said.

Disillusioned

In her speech, Ms Macapagal also noted that most people were already "disillusioned" with politicians for their constant bickering.

A nationwide survey conducted for the UP Center for Leadership, Citizenship and Democracy last November found that Filipinos were disenchanted with the country's kind of democracy and system of government.

"It's a reflection of the people's impatience over the system," acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable said of the survey.

Seventy-two percent of the respondents agreed that there was a possibility that Filipinos might lose faith in peaceful means of promoting democracy.

Afable said this kind of skepticism was prevalent in developing countries. "People think the system we have cannot deliver services at the pace they want," he said. "This is the nature of a democratic system like ours."

He admitted that the "checks-and-balance" in democratic countries like the Philippines "can sometimes delay the delivery of necessary services."

The concept of checks-and-balance means that each of the three branches of government—the executive, legislative and judiciary—has the powers to restrain its co-equal branch in case of excesses.

The exercise of this democratic feature has often resulted in political horsetrading and other abuses.

Afable noted that Ms Macapagal had been calling on Congress "to team up with the executive branch to hasten the delivery of services so the people will keep faith with our democratic system."

In mature democracies, the "professional bureaucracy" goes on with the delivery of services even with changes in the top leadership, according to Afable.

Afable, however, stressed that the survey did not validate the theory being pushed by the Freedom Force that the country was veering toward a revolution, which may be led either by the Right or the Left.

"It (survey) does not reflect a desire among the people to change the system toward the extremes," Afable said.

Proponents of Freedom Force claim that the country is on the verge of a social explosion that the Macapagal administration needs the support of the middle class to prevent a revolution.

Reports from Dona Pazzibugan and Carlito Pablo

From page A1

"Her running again is a legitimate aspiration because she is highly qualified. It should not be an issue at all," LP president Rep. Florencio Abad said.

Abad, the representative from the lone district of Batanes and a candidate for House Speaker last year, said the opposition should not begrudge Ms Macapagal her chance in 2004, to follow through on programs started after she was thrust into the presidency with the ouster of disgraced President Joseph Estrada last year.

"It's a rare opportunity to serve the country for nine years," Abad said, referring to the possibility that, if elected to the presidency in 2004 in her own right, she would serve a total of nine years in office.

Abad and 15 other LP leaders, including Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, met the President on Tuesday as part of their regular schedule of consultations with the chief executive.

Asked whether he believed the President would run in 2004, Abad replied: "Who would not know she is not interested? We expect her to do that."

But Abad noted that during the meeting, Ms Macapagal and the LP leaders agreed that it was still early for extensive discussions about the elections of 2004.

"We all agreed that the moves of the administration should not be perceived as being directed to 2004," Abad said. "Winning the elections should be a logical consequence of the President's good performance."

Presidential adviser Norberto Gonzales earlier claimed that the President would seek a full six-year term in 2004 but was restrained by the country's political culture from saying so openly.

As expected, Ms Macapagal publicly chastised Gonzales, saying he was not privy to her political plans. The President admitted, however, that a political machinery was being put up, but only to "consolidate" support for her administration's programs.

Abad said the LP had in fact advised Ms Macapagal that there was a need "to consolidate forces allied with the administration," especially because some of the forces which helped her assume the presidency have apparently turned against her.

Abad said that during the meeting, the LP leaders expressed their concern over recent political developments, dominated by rumors of plots to oust the President.

Such schemes will not succeed, he said, but added that these were generating negative publicity for the country and scaring potential investors away.

Abad stressed that the LP was "morally committed to supporting her administration because we believe that she has not lost sight of the noble aspirations which made Edsa II possible."

Pols' summit: Junk Judicial Bar Council

From page A1

How should Charter change proceed? The draft declaration said "Congress shall either convene as a constituent assembly or call for constitutional convention whose delegates shall be elected in 2004."

Former Vice President Salvador Laurel said the Nacionalista Party (NP) was for a constitutional convention.

Laurel, NP president, said the party was supporting the revision of the Charter "not only to eliminate its glaring defects but also to make it more responsive to the changing needs of our growing population."

"We should amend the Constitution to give the government more elbowroom so that it will no longer be changed at the will or whim of either the military or the mob," Laurel said.

Batanes Rep. Florencio "Butch" Abad, president of the Liberal Party, said his party was amenable to Charter change "with certain preconditions."

Abad said he agreed with the keynote speech of Ms Macapagal that there be structural reforms before a change in form of government could be made.

"There is really no sense in having a parliamentary form of government if political parties are weak," Abad told reporters.

Workshops

Former President Fidel Ramos, chair emeritus of the ruling Lakas-NUCD, refused to comment on Charter change. "Why don't we wait for the workshops?" said Ramos, who was accused of espousing Charter change to extend his term beyond 1998.

De Venecia, chair of the summit and of Lakas-NUCD, said the adoption of Charter change would be decided during the workshops.

"All the provisions in the draft (declaration for the summit) will be debated in the workshops. If there is a consensus, we will put that in the declaration," De Venecia said.

Romulo Neri, director general of the CPBO and conference director, said workshop Group 6 would come up with a resolution on Charter change.

The draft declaration called for a rejection of all extra-constitutional means of changing the duly elected government, with elections as the "only one way" to change it.

No to coup

The 21 political parties in attendance are expected to begin their "unified conference declaration" on Sunday with a promise to reject "all plots, machinations and conspiracies, regardless of the nobility of their aims and the sincerity of their intentions."

"To that end, we unreservedly condemn coups, putsches, rebellions, insurrections, civil disorders, lawlessness and mass demonstrations aimed at a change of duly elected and democratic governments other than by regular scheduled elections," the draft said.

In his opening speech, De Venecia thanked those who responded with "moral courage to the task of our time, which is to end the politics of hate, the politics of division, and the politics of suspicion and to create a unified economic and political agenda to modernize the nation."

"Indeed, just by gathering here, we make a powerful political statement," said De Venecia.

He said the political elite must accept a large portion of the blame for the national situation.

"Political parties and their leaders are to blame. A good number of times, we, the political parties, have become the problem—and not the solution," De Venecia said.

Seven national and six regional parties attended the first day of the summit. Eight party-list groups also attended.

Aside from Lakas, NP and LP, the national parties included the Nationalist People's Coalition, Kilusang Bagong Lipunan, Partido ng Demokratiko-Sosyalista ng Pilipinas and Kampi.

The regional parties are Alayon, Bagong Lakas ng Nueva Ecija, Lihok Cotabato, Ompia, United Negros Alliance and Ang Pilipinas Saro Party.

Akbayan, Abanse Pinay, Alagad, Adhikain at Kilusan ng Ordinaryo/Tao para sa Lupa, Pabahay, Hanapbuhay at Kaunlaran (AKO), Cibac, Apec, Butil, and Small Coconut Farmers Organizations also joined the summit.

A declaration is expected to be issued at the end of the summit on Sunday.

Boycott a big mistake—Joe de V

From page A1

ances and unsolved killings of its 17 members. It was joined by the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) and Sanlakas.

Angara, LDP president, said on Thursday that the party would boycott the summit because of an alleged plan by Malacañang to arrest him and Sen. Panfilo Lacson should chaos break out during the Labor Day rallies.

But several administration senators doubted Angara's story.

"Why would anyone want to arrest Senator Angara?" asked Sen. Joker Arroyo.

"Yes, he is good at writing diaries, but creating violence or being a revolutionary, no, he certainly cannot hurt even a fly, even if he tried," Arroyo said, alluding to Angara's diary on the last hours of Joseph Estrada in Malacañang.

Arroyo said he believed that Angara was just trying to picture himself as a "hero" who was wanted by the government.

Arroyo said even the Philippine National Police (PNP) was not looking for Angara, adding that members of the PNP assigned to the Senate even saluted him.

Arrest bogey

The administration senator said that LDP merely used the arrest bogey to wriggle out of a summit where it would play second fiddle.

Sen. John Osmeña said that the arrest story was just a "drama" of the opposition, adding that people would not buy it.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said he did not believe that the government was suppressing the opposition.

"Rallies were held, and no arrests were made. So I don't know what repression they are talking about," he said.

Interior Secretary Joey Lina also belied the claim of Angara about the alleged plan of the PNP to foment violence during the Labor Day rallies so that opposition leaders could be arrested.

Lina said there were no warrants for the arrest of opposition leaders. "In fact, I have personally talked to Senator Angara on the phone on the morning of May 1, and assured him that there was no such warrant of arrest.

De Venecia said Angara called him up to assure him that he was not quarreling with the Speaker and that he would support Congress' legislative agenda.

"I told him why don't you go to the conference to denounce them and I will ask for an investigation to find if the report is true," De Venecia said.

He said an "apologetic" Makati Rep. Agapito Aquino, LDP secretary general, also called him up to say he was not consulted about the LDP boycott.

Aquino was originally tasked with serving as chair of the summit workshop concerning electoral, party system and constitutional reforms.

Losing end

Former President Fidel Ramos, chair emeritus of the ruling Lakas-NUCD, and Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales said the LDP and other groups that boycotted the summit were at the losing end.

"It's the loss of those (who did not attend)," Ramos said.

Ramos said the LDP's absence was not a setback to the summit because "90 percent" of the political parties, which participated in the organization of the summit, were in attendance.

Rosales said it was "unfortunate" that Angara and Pimentel decided to boycott the summit, which, she said, could have been the "venue to articulate your position."

"I don't have to agree with the whole lot of them but I'm here to assert that the party-list system—what it stands for—is an improvement over traditional politics," she said. "This is the conference to do it."

Rep. Florencio Abad, Liberal Party president, said many of the party leaders were "confused" by the LDP decision.

Abad said the opposition party could have used the summit to "raise their issues."

"Then they might have gotten support for all you know," he said.

In a press conference, Angara clarified that the boycott was not a declaration of "war" by the LDP against President Macapagal-Arroyo but a "war against repressive actions" of her administration.

He stressed, however, that opposition members in both houses of Congress would continue supporting certain bills on political and economic reforms because they were elected by the people to do so.

Angara said the LDP was committed to help pass landmark measures such as the political party law and reforming the electoral process and economic legislation the major political parties had earlier agreed upon.

In a statement, Reporma-LM chair Renato S. de Villa said the party initially showed genuine interest in joining the activity by sending some party stalwarts to attend the preparatory workshops.

The party, however, decided to withdraw its participation due to major differences on the focus of the summit, De Villa said.

Reporma-LM considers the political summit's main theme, "Modernizing the Political Institutions of a Democratic and Prosperous National Community," too general.

Graft not part of agenda

The party asserted that the summit would prove meaningless if it did not focus on issues like graft and corruption.

Bayan chair Rafael Mariano said that there was no use in joining the summit as Ms Macapagal was "not open to the reexamination of her policies."

Mariano said the summit should have included the reexamination of economic policies like deregulation, privatization and liberalization.

"It would be better if the summit included ways of abolishing the Purchased Power Adjustment, instituting price controls on oil and basic commodities, curbing bureaucratic corruption, and legislating a much-needed P125 across-the-board wage hike," the Bayan leader said.

For his part, Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza said his group decided against participating in the summit because it did not want to be part of what he called a "summit of hypocrites."

Fortaleza predicted that the summit would "either be reduced to an idle talking shop or transformed into a campaign platform for the political ambitions of those behind the gathering."

With reports from Agnes E. Donato and Angeli A. Alagcan

Gloria warms up to Eddie

From page A1

summit yesterday morning, she paid tribute to the country's 12th president, saying he had "inspired" her.

Ramos was seated on the stage with other political party leaders. She greeted the others with a brief mention of their respective parties' achievements, but when it came to Ramos, she departed from the story line. She said Ramos' "story inspired me."

"Because I remember that there were also difficult moments in his presidency, but he kept on with his economic reforms," she said. Ramos, who was also partial to summits during his term, laid the groundwork for the privatization of state-owned firms like the National Power Corp. He also undertook huge infrastructure projects in time for the 1998 centenary of Philippine independence.

In the afternoon, she ad-libbed again, this time at the World Press Freedom Day rites in Malacañang.

Before reading her speech, she pointed out to the journalist-delegates that Ramos was present in the Unescoled affair not only because he was a former Philippine president but also because Ramos was the Unesco Peace Award recipient in 1997.

Ramos acknowledged the unexpected praise with a smile, while the audience applauded. World Press Freedom Prize awardee Geoffrey Nyarota also acknowledged Ramos at the start of his speech.

Last week, some Palace officials had telegraphed their belief in news reports that Ramos was involved in the Freedom Force, citing the presence of close Ramos associate Cesar Sarino at the controversial meeting with Jaime Cardinal Sin, the influential archbishop of Manila.

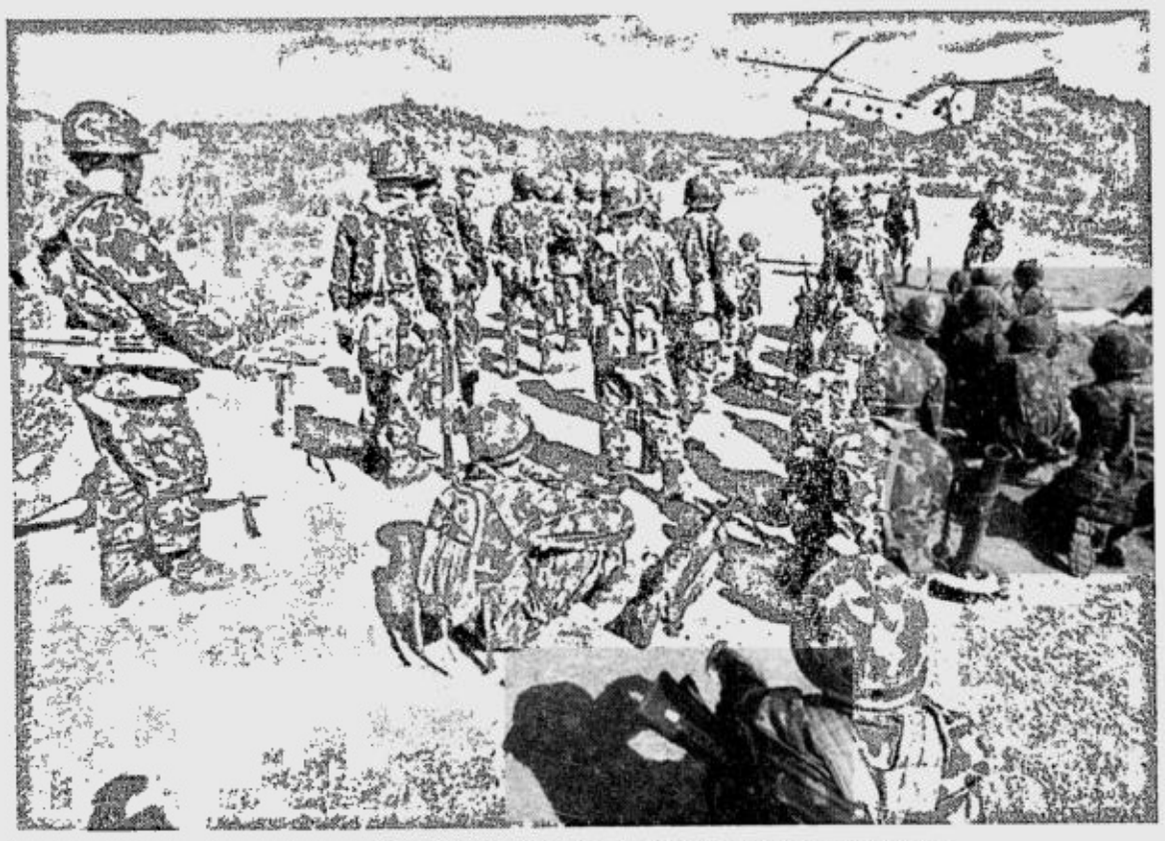
Both Ramos and Sarino, who is currently the President's adviser for Southern Tagalog, issued statements denying participation in any alleged takeover plans.

Late last year, Ramos was dragged into the picture after his former Budget Secretary Salvador Enriquez suddenly became very vocal in criticizing Ms Macapagal.

FILIPINO troops disembark from a US Chinook chopper.

THE END of the two-week Balikatan 02-02 war exercises gives elements of the 4th Marine battalion in the marine base in Ternate, Cavite, a sense of what it's like to be up on a US CH-48 chopper.

PHOTOS BY DENNIS SABANGAN



AN AUDIENCE of eager learners watch a heliborne operation in Ternate, Cavite.

INSIDE the US flying machine, Filipino troops seem in awe of it all.

Slain priest's Abu Sayyaf tormentor captured

From page A1

Abdullah's arrest was announced, at least four town mayors of Basilan, which is some 300 kilometers from this city, called up to praise the police.

Dangane told the INQUIRER that the captured bandit has a string of cases before local courts in Basilan. These cases, Dangane said, include among others kidnapping with serious illegal detention.

City Councilor Eduardo Leyson III, chair of the city council's peace and order committee, lauded the police for Abdullah's capture. He said that the peace and order situation in the city was gradually going back to normal because of the series of arrests by the police.

Abdullah's arrest has brought to six the number of suspected bombers caught since the police crackdown started on April 21.

In Zamboanga City, military officials said elite Philippine forces were on standby to rescue two Americans and one Filipino hostage held by the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan, once their location is confirmed.

"Our troops have been placed on standby for possible targets, once we have pinpointed the area," said military spokesperson Col. Danilo Servando.

He said a US-trained light reaction company was on alert to go into action once they track down the Abu Sayyaf in the thick forests of Basilan.

However, officials reiterated that the Americans could only advise and train local troops and could not take part in actual combat with the kidnap group.

Lt. Col. David Maxwell, the commander of a US Special Forces unit here, said recovering the three hostages "is the work of the Philippine armed forces and we are here to train and advise."

Military sources said they were narrowing down the general area where the hostages are believed to have been held but would give no further details.

Bandits slain

Also in Zamboanga City, Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu told reporters the military had recovered the bodies of eight of the 13 Abu Sayyaf members slain during the April 29 encounter off the waters of Barangays Talisayan and Patalon.

Cimatu said the bodies of the slain bandits were recovered during the search operations that started on April 30. He said the slain bandits were part of a larger group under Sattar Yacub, who is based in Tuburan, Basilan.

He also claimed Yacub himself was injured during the clash, but had managed to escape along with several others.

Cimatu, the chief of the Southern Command, awarded Gold Crosses for Gallantry in Combat to eight soldiers who routed the bandits in the encounter. A ninth soldier was being treated for wounds suffered and was not present to receive his medal.

The soldiers, patrolling the coast off Zamboanga in a boat, came under fire from about a dozen bandits in another boat, officers said. The soldiers returned fire, hitting the rebels' engine which then caught fire, setting off explosives and ammunition and killing several rebels. The military said they recovered eight bodies but expect to find four more in coming days.

On Wednesday, police also killed four suspected Abu Sayyaf rebels trying to enter General Santos City by boat, in a pre-dawn gun battle at a coastal village.

Bloody fiesta

President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the release of P350,000 for the victims of Wednesday's grenade attack at a fiesta in Barangay Notre Dame Village here.

Kunesa Sekak, regional director of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, said the families of the slain victims will receive P10,000 while wounded victims will get P5,000 each.

Sekak said that, based on their records, only five persons were confirmed dead in the fiesta blast.

Senior Supt. Sanggacala Dampac, city police chief, said multiple murder and frustrated murder would be filed against the four teenagers who were identified by witnesses as responsible for the explosion.

"One of them, a 14-year-old suspect, admitted they tossed the hand grenade during a live concert at the parish grounds," Dampac said. The 14-year-old, a Maguindanao, was injured in the 9:45 p.m. blast. "He helped us identify the other suspects," Dampac said.

In Davao del Sur, the families of the two suspected bombers killed in a clash with police authorities in Darong, Sta. Cruz, on Wednesday, said the slain were plain civilians.

Residents also said that Abdul Munib was a teacher in an Islamic school, while 16-year-old Muhammad Magantor was his student.

Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, police chief for Southern Mindanao, said those slain and arrested were the suspects behind the April 21 bombings in General Santos City. Matillano also said the suspects were killed and arrested in a raid that resulted in an encounter.

But Dante Bastida, Munib's father-in-law, said there was no such encounter. ***Aquiles Z. Zonio, Dennis Jay Santos, Julie S. Alipala, Anthony S. Allada, Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau, with reports from AFP, AP***

Press freedom day: GMA out of tune

From page A1

therefore the subject of press reports, I really appreciate the good news about personal heroism, values, human worth and community triumph.

"We tend to gloss over these things even if they're the real stuff of nationhood," she said.

She said that while the Philippines is considered one of the few "havens of press freedom" in the world, she reminded the media of the "responsible exercise of press freedom."

But as a policy, the President said she "would rather have a licentious press than a bridled press."

Press freedom awardee

The President witnessed the formal awarding of the Unesco/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize to Zimbabwean editor Geoffrey Nyarota.

Unesco director general Koichiro Matsuura also gave a posthumous award to American journalist Daniel Pearl of the Wall Street Journal who was kidnapped and executed in Pakistan by Islamic extremists last February.

Robert Fitts, US Embassy charge d'affaires, received the Pearl award.

The award was named after the Colombian journalist who was murdered in 1986 after a series of stories probing the criminal activities of the drug cartel.

An arrest warrant has been issued to Nyarota in his native Zimbabwe. Two reporters from his paper, The Daily News, were arrested upon Nyarota's arrival in Manila for the conference.

"This is nothing but the latest episode in the ongoing harassment of the Daily News," Nyarota told the INQUIRER. He's the editor in chief of the Daily News, the only independent paper in Zimbabwe founded in 1999.

"The government wants all the press and all Zimbabweans to be reduced to a level of subservience so that we accept whatever it tells us. We reject that," Nyarota stressed referring to President Robert Mugabe who has been in power for the past 22 years.

"I feel very sorry for our young reporters. But I am informed they are being very brave about the whole incident," Nyarota told the INQUIRER.

The delegates had condemned the arrests particularly since the Zimbabwe Supreme Court had struck down a new media law that basically protects the privacy of government officials. Its violation carries a jail sentence of two years and a newspaper's closure.

Gov'ts accused

The Unesco (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)forum urged authorities to respect a reporter's right "to editorial independence, to protect confidential sources of information, to access information held by public bodies, to freedom of movement and to privacy of communications."

Delegates accused many governments, including those of the United States, Australia, Canada, England, Japan and France, of restricting media freedoms, citing national security as an excuse.

They highlighted as an example Washington's request to US television stations to not broadcast video-recorded speeches from

Osama bin Laden without first checking their content. US officials said they feared the messages might contain calls to his followers for news attacks from the suspected terrorist mastermind in the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

Jean-Paul Marthoz, European information director for New York-based Human Rights Watch, told the forum that journalists were being increasingly targeted by criminal organizations, paramilitary and guerrilla groups as well as by state authorities.

Reporters Without Borders

The media rights organization Reporters Without Borders said in its annual statement from its base in Paris Thursday that 31 reporters died in the line of duty last year and 110 were in prison at the end of 2001. This included eight killed while covering the US-led war in Afghanistan.

Rights groups at the Manila conference criticized Israeli security forces for allegedly harassing reporters covering the conflict there.

Reporters Without Borders said seven journalists were wounded by gunfire and 15 arrested since March. Another 60 journalists were targeted by gunfire, 20 were abused or threatened, and 20 had passports, press cards or equipment confiscated, the statement said.

On Tuesday a reporter of The Associated Press living in the West Bank city of Nablus was taken from his house and detained, handcuffed and blindfolded for 20 hours.

The forum also voiced concern over the detention in Zimbabwe of Andrew Meldrum, a correspondent for Britain's Guardian newspaper, who was arrested Wednesday. He was the seventh independent journalist to be arrested since March 22 under Zimbabwe's new media law.

"We call on Zimbabwean authorities to drop the charges against these journalists and refrain from" harassment, read a statement passed unanimously by the delegates.

Asia's freest

Foreign journalists acknowledged the Philippines as having one of the "freest media" in Asia, but the media is "not completely secure" and still vulnerable to state terrorism, according to the Southeast Asian Press Alliance (Seapa).

Chavarong Limpattamapanee, Seapa head, presented the Seapa report, a case study titled "Media in Danger: Southeast Asia at a Glance."

The Seapa report cited the incidents involving the Philippine Daily Inquirer and the Manila Times and the experience of Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Cambodia.

"Former President Joseph Estrada tried to muzzle the press by forcing the closure of a critical newspaper and initiating an advertising boycott of an influential daily that ran critical reports about his presidency," according to Seapa.

"He also used `envelopmental' journalism to make sure that he got good coverage," the report said.

The Seapa report was referring to the pressure exerted on the former owners of the Manila Times that forced them to close down the paper and sell it to one of Estrada's cronies, Mark Jimenez.

It also alluded to the five-month advertising boycott against the INQUIRER by Estrada crony companies in 1999.

Seapa also cited the case of Thailand where similar incidents happened when Prime Minister Thaksin Sinnawatra took power in early 2001. "The new government is also accused of using advertising power to pressure the print media to be friendly to the government," the Seapa report said.

Not only physical threats

In summing up, the Seapa reported that, "The threats to media freedom in Southeast Asia are not only physical threats. They also take the form of advertising pressure, closure of newspapers and control through ownership and the corruption of journalists."

The Seapa report said that the threats come not just from governments but from big business and in the case of Indonesia, mob violence.

"From the fall of Suharto in Indonesia to the ouster of Estrada in the Philippines, and the political reform in Thailand, these situations have more or less impact to the demanding for free expression in Malaysia and the development of the press in Cambodia not to mention the emerging press in newly-state of East Timor," the Seapa report noted.

However, the report said, the state of the media in the region, especially in the "more open society" as Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand, "is not completely secure due to the fact that media is still the target of accusation whenever there are political, economic and social turmoil."

Indonesia is facing a new threat from the social pressure groups, the report said. "Mobs composed of Islamic militants have attacked the offices of newspapers and television stations whose reporting has angered them. Journalists face threats not just from the government but from unruly mobs."

High casualty rate

In the case of the Philippines, it said while it has one of the freest press in Asia, it also has one of the highest casualty counts.

Some 35 Filipino journalists, it said, had been killed since the restoration of democracy in 1986. Many Filipino journalists, especially in the provinces, it added, face threat and harassment in the course of their work.

In Malaysia, the Seapa report said, the press has been under tight control by the ruling party that imposes strong press regulations and ownership control.

In May 3, 2000, some 1,000 Malaysian journalists, regardless of race and religion, signed a petition to the Home Minister demanding a change in the existing press law. The government has yet to meet the demand of the journalists, the Seapa report said.

Displeasing Mahathir

"Earlier this year, key journalists and editors of the Sun newspaper were fired after the newspaper ran a story that displeased Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad," the Seapa said.

"If we consider all the above mentioned incidents as threats to the media, we can simply say that the media in Southeast Asian countries in the region are in danger. In addition, after Sept. 11, some of the countries in the region have come up with new measures and legislation to muzzle the media and limit civil liberty. All of which are done in the name of the anti-terrorism campaign. ***With a report from AP***

GS Superio hits finish line today

NAVIGATOR nonpareil Andy Dysangco believes the Nissan Exalta GS Superio will break the record in the Pan Philippine Marathon even before it reaches its final destination this morning at the Greenbelt parking lot in Makati.

Joined by June Ramirez, Bebot Roque and guest passenger Raymond Tribdino, Dysangco took over from Willie Ingles last night en route to Calabarzon. Dysangco expects the Exalta to match the 30,586 kilometer reading logged by the Sentra Series III seven years ago when his crew arrives at the scenic Lago del Oro in Calatagan, Batangas.

When the Exalta, which sports a high-revving QG 1.6-liter engine, was handed over by Ingles to Dysangco at Nissan-Mantrade in Magallanes, the Caltex Havoline odometer reading was 30,055 kilometers.

"By the time we arrive in Makati, the Exalta would be parading a kilometer reading way above the previous mark," said Dysangco, who is leaning on the expertise of mechanic Ramirez and ace driver Roque to cap the Exalta's 30-day non-stop run with a flourish.

Nissan officials invited Tribidano to board the Exalta to prove that no hanky-panky will be done to the odometer of the car.

Dysangco drove to Tagaytay City via Sta. Rosa. He will pass through Nasugbu, Talisay and Calatagan before heading back to the Big City where Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay will welcome them.

Like the other members of the intrepid crew, Dysangco could not help but thank Caltex, Goodyear Ventura, Asian Navigation and Tracking System and Joey's 92.3 FM for their valuable support.

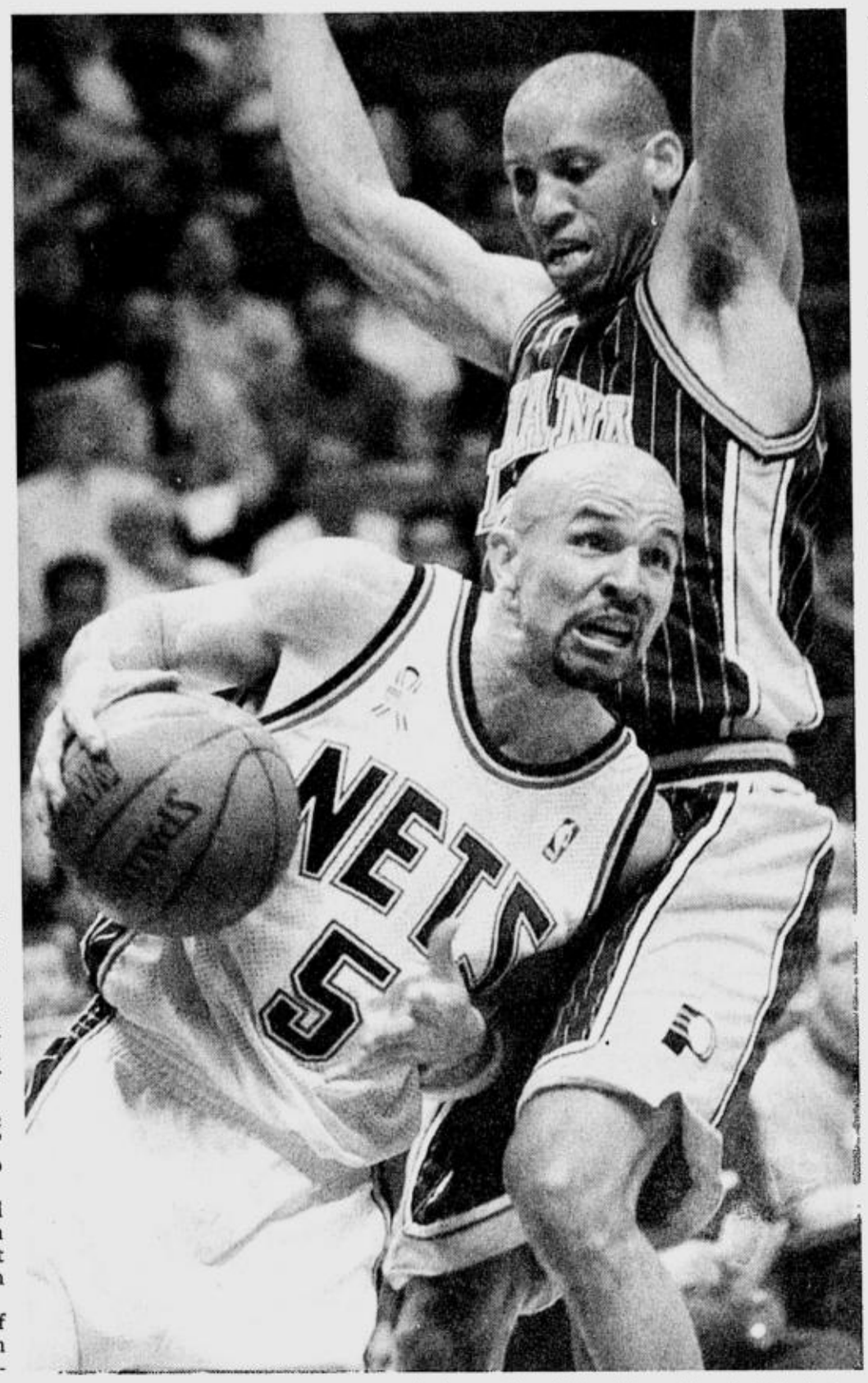
"Without these backers, the run would have been marred by delays and other problems," said Dysangco. "Thank God, they're all here to provide assistance."

Ingles, Andy Ferreira, Chuchie Iriarte and Mon Dizon experienced heavy traffic in San Leandro, Nueva Ecija, up to Dalton Pass, but still came out of the sparkling silver sedan fresh as a daisy.

"The luxurious features and superb drive of the Exalta made it easier for us to cope with the traffic," said Ingles, the 1972 Manila-to-London driver who is expected to join the entire marathon team when Nissan officials stage a welcome party at the Greenbelt.

Nissan officials Vir Diwa, Tonette Lee, Arthur Wang and Jack Wu are expected to welcome the team with open arms just like a month ago when the Exalta was let loose at the Eastwood City in Libis, Quezon City.

Over 23,000 kilometers were chalked up by the Exalta in the Visayas and Mindanao. Among the cities visited by the Exalta down south were Bacolod, Cebu, Davao, Ormoc, Tacloban, Cagayan de Oro, Butuan as well as picturesque towns like Balangiga and Catarman in Samar, Palo in Leyte and Tagbilaran in Bohol.



NEW Jersey Nets' Jason Kidd (5) goes to the basket against Indiana Pacers' Reggie Miller in the first quarter of the first round playoff game in East Rutherford, NJ yesterday. The Nets won, 120-109. AP

Nets, Pistons capture NBA semis berths

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey —Jason Kidd scored 20 of his career playoff-best 31 points in the fourth quarter and two overtimes as the Nets eliminated Reggie Miller and the Indiana Pacers 120-109 Thursday night in the deciding Game 5 of their first-round series.

Miller was at his best under pressure, hitting from 35 feet to force overtime and tying the game again on a two-handed dunk with 3.1 seconds left in the first overtime. But he went 0-for-4 in the second overtime - all on 3-point shots.

It marked only the second time since the Nets joined the NBA in 1976-77 that they have made it out of the first round.

Kenyon Martin added 29 points and Keith Van Horn had 27 before fouling out as New Jersey advanced to a best-of-seven Eastern Conference semifinal against the Charlotte Hornets. Miller finished with 31 points and Ron Mercer had 20 in only the third series-deciding playoff game in NBA history to go to double-overtime.

Pistons 85, Raptors 82

Jerry Stackhouse had only five points, but his first field goal with 1:43 left put Detroit ahead to stay as the Pistons eliminated the Raptors.

The Pistons are in the second round of the NBA playoffs for the first time since 1991, and Stackhouse advances for the first time in his seven-year career.

The Raptors had a chance to become just the seventh team to overcome a 2-0 deficit to win a best-of-five series. But they made only one basket in the final 2 1/2 minutes, and Chris Childs forced up a terrible shot with 7 seconds left on Toronto's final possession.

Former Raptor Corliss Williamson scored a career playoff-high 23 points. Chucky Atkins had 14 points, Jon Barry scored 12 and Ben Wallace grabbed 17 rebounds and scored six points.

Dell Curry scored 14 of his 17 in the final quarter. Childs scored 16, and Keon Clark continued his strong play with 15. *AP*

Playoffs heat up

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

IT'S only Round One but things are already heating up in the 2002 NBA playoffs.

For the first time in nine years, four of the eight first-round, best-of-five playoff series have gone the distance or the maximum five games. Overall, there have been at least four five-game decisions in one postseason on four occasions since the NBA instituted the 16-team playoff format in 1984. The previous times were 1993 (four), 1988 (four) and 1984 (six).

In the current playoffs, the first-round matchups that have stretched to a decisive fifth game are 1-New Jersey vs. 8-Indiana, 2-Detroit vs. 7-Toronto and 3-Houston vs. 6-Philadelphia in the East and 2-San Antonio vs. 7-Seattle in the West.

Yesterday (Manila time), hosts New Jersey and Detroit sought to capture Game 5 against Indiana and Toronto, respectively. The youthful Nets looked to avoid becoming the third No. 1 seed to lose to a No. 8 seed under the current postseason scheme. The Pistons, on the other hand, tried to avoid becoming only the seventh club in NBA history to drop a best-of-five duel after holding a 2-0 advantage.

Today, Boston plays host to reigning East titlist Philadelphia in Game 5. Like the first games of the Detroit-Toronto affair, the teams with the "light" uniforms in the Celtics-76ers series have triumphed each time. Boston, which owns the homecourt advantage, took the first two games while Philly, behind the stout-hearted Allen Iverson, grabbed the last two.

In the other game today (Manila time), San Antonio entertains upset-conscious Seattle in the series finale at the Alamodome, which is scheduled to be demolished after the playoffs.

The Spurs were without their Twin Towers Tim Duncan (death of his father) and David Robinson (back problems) in Game 4 when they were beaten 91-79 in Seattle last Thursday. The status of both players remains questionable for Game 5. Without the two big men, San Antonio is vulnerable.

Rojas tops single Fita round; Gen. Pedregoza rules Masters

ARNOLD Rojas collected 1253 points yesterday to rule the single Fita round competition in the 2002 national archery championships at the UP-PSC range in Diliman, Quezon City.

Rojas beat Marvin R. Crodero (1249) and Christian Cubilla (1222) in the men's adult level. Rojas topped the 70-meter and 30-meter distance events with 310 and 347 points, respectively, but Cordero and Cubilla posted the best scores of 291 and 313 in the 90 meters and 50 meters, respectively.

Earl Yap nipped Raul Ramon Arambulo by a single bulls-eye in the compound division's single Fita round after both finished with 1318 points. Yap also topped the 50 meters (331) and 30 meters (351) while Arambulo ruled 70 meters with 330 and matched Yap's 251 in 30 meters. Carlos Carag fired 316 in the 90 meters.

Yap and Arambulo tied the 351 national mark set by Manuel Martinez last month.

Gen. Jose Marlowe Pedregoza, PNP crime laboratory chief superintendent who donated the medals in the tourney supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, won the Masters title in the compound divison with 1181 points, way ahead of Nestor de Castro (1116) and Benito Penzon Jr. (979).

Other winners so far:

Girls' division—Patty Barriga, 1178, cadet; Edwina delo Reyes, 1169, standard round (high school); Delos Reyes, 545, double 50-meter distance; Hazel Rosales, 654, double 30-meter distance, Sherlyn Palatao, 1145, standard round (college); Palatao, 510, 50 meters; Palatao, 635, double 30 meters; Delos Reyes, 545, double 50 meters; and Rosales, 654, double 30 meters.

Boys' division—Bryan Carlo Figueroa, 1203, Fita competition; Bernard Yamson, 1161, intermediate level; Gemmo Fernandez, 1155, cadet level; Roanld Cascayan, 1264, standard round, (high school); Cascayan, 596, double 50 meters, and 668, double 30 meter; Rowel Eima, 1175, college level; Enelmar Venus, 544, double 50 meters; and Eisma, 639, double 30 meters.

Commissioners Cynthia Carreon and William Ramirez and POC president Celso L. Dayrit were invited to present the medals.

Sampaguita Rally begins

THE SECOND staging of the "Shell-Helix Motoring Today Motor Sports Challenge-the Subic Experience" will be held today. Also known as the "Sampaguita Rally," it challenges the precision driving of participants. The sponsorship agreement of Shell-Helix was signed by Edwin Laset, marketing manager of Pilipinas Shell Corp., and Ray Butch Gamboa, president of Sunshine Television Ventures, a production outfit of Motoring Today TV show. Witnesses were Allen Mojica, president and CEO of A.P. Mojica & Associates Public Relations Inc., who will handle the event management, and Jennifer Bleza, vice president for production of Sunshine Television Ventures Production.

Carlos takes 3rd title, earns world jr spot

JOBIM Carlos captured his third straight title in the Jungolf Summer Circuit recently and clinched a spot in the country's San Diego Junior World delegation.

Carlos, who lost the first two legs, nipped Woolen Superal by two strokes in Class D (11-12 years) in the fifth leg of the circuit played at the challenging Tagaytay highlands and Tagaytay Midlands courses.

Don Padilla (boys Class A) and Dottie Ardina (girls Class E) took the titles in their respective divisions in sudden-death playoffs.

Other winners were Katrina Gonzales in girls Class A, Lawrence Negrido and Erlaine Lumanog in Class B, Miguel Camitoc and Katrina Briones in Class C, Mia Picco in girls Class D and JR Gonzales in boys Class E.

The results:

Class A: Boys (155 D. Padilla (won via playoff), SK Lee K. Ugarte, 157 JY Cho, 158 V. Tan) Girls (170 K. Gonzales, 183 M. Salivio)

Class B: Boys (150 L. Negrido, 155 I. Intal, 161 C. Hong, 162 A. Dimabuyo, 163 IG Gutierrez) Girls (187 E. Lumanog, NN Sevilla 203)

Class C: Boys (162 M. Camitoc, 171 R. Mamac, 176 M. Sevilla, J. Grananda, 186 I. Sumampong) Girls (K. Briones 167, 195 F. Pawal)

Class D: Boys (128 J. Carlos, 130 W. Superal, 131 L. Evangelio, 136 J. Ong, 145 M. Arevalo) Girls (125 M. Piccio, 149 C. Rodriguez)

Class E: Boys (JR Gonzales 109, 118 M. Tabuena, 132 JP de Claro, 134 C. Ricohermoso, 145 AR Ramos) Girls (D. Ardina beat C. Potenciano in playoff)

Beach Volley goes to Boracay

SIXTEEN of the best collegiate beach volleyball teams from all over the country clash in the quarterfinals, semifinals, and championships of the 6th Nestea Beach Volley University Championships on May 11 and 12 in Boracay Island.

These qualifiers were determined last month as the Metro Manila, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao eliminations were held at the La Salle Greenhills sand court. Eight of the teams are from Metro Manila and eight are from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Foundation University, composed of Kent Bulabon and Isidro Bongcasan, is seeking a back to back title against a field that includes Far Eastern University's duo of UAAP indoor volleyball champion team members, Randy Fallorina and Jeoffrey Butch Geuverra.

Joining them in their quest for the top plum and over half a million in prizes are a group composed of Nestea beach volley tournament veterans and newcomers. Aside from Foundation University and Far Eastern University, also seeking the men's division title this year are Metro Manila's Central Colleges of the Philippines (Jomel Bernardo and Michael Omana), Patts College of Aeronautics (Christian Pascual and Robert Criscencio) and Mapua Institute of Technology (Albert Alano and Eliezer Collado); Luzon's Pampanga Agricultural College (Joubert Cocjin and Roldan Garcia) and De La Salle University-Dasmariñas (Edgar Paule and Reygan Espera) and; Visayas-Mindanao's University of San Jose Recoletos (Jerome Capada and Norvie Labuga).

On the distaff side, the teams vying for the top title are Metro Manila's Letran College (Sherrilyn Carrilo and Cathlea Villaluz), St. Jude College (Angie Adorable and Kriza Cabanog), Adamson University (Kristine Anne Dave and Ailane Quina) and Mapua Institute of Technology (Louvella Abanilla and Janilyn Sarabia); Luzon's Baguio Colleges Foundation (Ma. Christine Enola and Jhoanna Joanino) De La Salle University-Dasmariñas (Raissa Ramirez and Rhona Ramirez); Visayas-Mindanao's Southwestern University (Janeth Ponte and Florina Gutierez) and Foundation University (Cherie Mae Boladola and Rolyn Marquicias).

Nestea held the eliminations for the Luzon and Visayas-Mindano areas in order to have a better representation of the entire country in the annual beach volleyball meet. For details, check out the Nestea website at www.NESTEA.ph

The 6th Nestea Beach Volley University Championships is made possible by sponsors Speedo, the official outfitter of the 6th Nestea Beach Volley University Championships, Astring-O-Sol Ice, Asian Spirit, the People's Airline, Mikasa, Carl's Jr. WG & A Superferry, Kenny Rogers Roasters and Boracay Resorts, Villa de Oro and Boracay Golf Crowne, Club 10 Beach Resort, Alyssa Resort, Crystal Sand and Boracay Bars and Restaurants; Club Bazzura, Café Breizh, Summe, Place and Hey Jude!

NGAP slates age-group tilts

IN ITS continuing campaign to develop golfers in all ages, the National Golf Association of the Philippines is set to stage two major competitions for the young and not-so-young in different Cavite courses next week.

Set to start on Tuesday, May 7 is the grand finals of the second NGAP national age group championships at the Dye and Faldo courses of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias.

Thirty-eight qualifiers from the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao eliminations will be competing in a match play format in the event sponsored by Philippine Airlines, Philippine Golf Foundation and Philippine Sports Commission.

The tourney will feature the country's most promising jungolfers aged 17 years and below.

On may 8, the Philippine Amateur Seniors Open kicks off with no less than 60 players vying for honors at the Couples course of the Riviera Golf and Country Club in Silang, Cavite.

The Seniors Open will feature players 55 years and above who will be competing in five different categories. Aside from the 54-hole Open event, there will be 36-hole with full handicap battles in Category II (60-64 years), Category III (65-69), Super Senior I (70-74) and Super Senior II (75 and above).

The RP Seniors Open is sponsored by Taylor Made Adidas, Pan West, Pagcor, Pfizer, DHL/WWW Express and Masters Sports/Mizuno.

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SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ● Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

BEST classes May 6

MILO BEST Center will stage of May 6 cage clinics at the Iloilo Sports Complex's covered gym in Iloilo City under Maria Escobar (tel. 033-315-5140 and 033-337-0372), Wesleyan University gym in Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija under Mario B. Penetrante (tel. 044-463-5629 and 0917-566-2717) and Malolos, Bulacan under Anthony Villanueva (office of Gov. Josie dela Cruz, tel. 044-791-2480).

BULAUITAN

Bulauitan fastest woman; La Salle, UE score

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LERMA Bulauitan won her second gold medal yesterday by ruling the women's century dash even as La Salle's boys relay team and University of the East's Julie Rose Forbes established new juniors records in the Gov. Sering Cup at the Rizal track oval.

Clad in silver-colored, body-hugger track suit that matched her long polished nails, Bulauitan bucked a bad start and a stiff shoulder to edge Thailand's Klomdee Orranut in a thrilling, down-the-wire finish in the Milo-sponsored event.

A day after narrowly winning the long jump title, the 27-year-old Bulauitan overtook the Thai just meters from the finish line.

"When I saw her making her move, I just dashed to the finish line," said Bulauitan, who became the meet's fastest woman in 11.83 seconds.

"I'm on track for the Asian Games, and I didn't let my countrymen down by losing to her again," said Bulauitan of Klomdee, who beat the Filipino for the silver in the 2001 Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games.

Ralph Waldy Soquilon, Vinzon Alday, Florencio Sollano and Melchor Ayon-ayon of the La Salle selection surpassed the national juniors mark in the 4X100m relay when they finished 42.96 seconds. The old mark was 43.14 seconds.

The 5-foot-10 Soquilon, the team's main man, made it a double treat when he ruled the boys 100m in 11.03 seconds, narrowly missing the national juniors mark by .24 seconds.

Earlier in the day, Forbes nailed her second national juniors mark when she posted 1 minute, 3.26 seconds in the girls 400m hurdles semifinals. She bettered the previous mark of 1:03.47.

Mary Grace Melgar of La Union won the women's 400m low hurldes, while Thailand's Namkunha Nattapon captured the gold in the men's triple jump. The Thais also dominated the men's 100m by making a 1-2-3 finish.

Eric marks 100th day

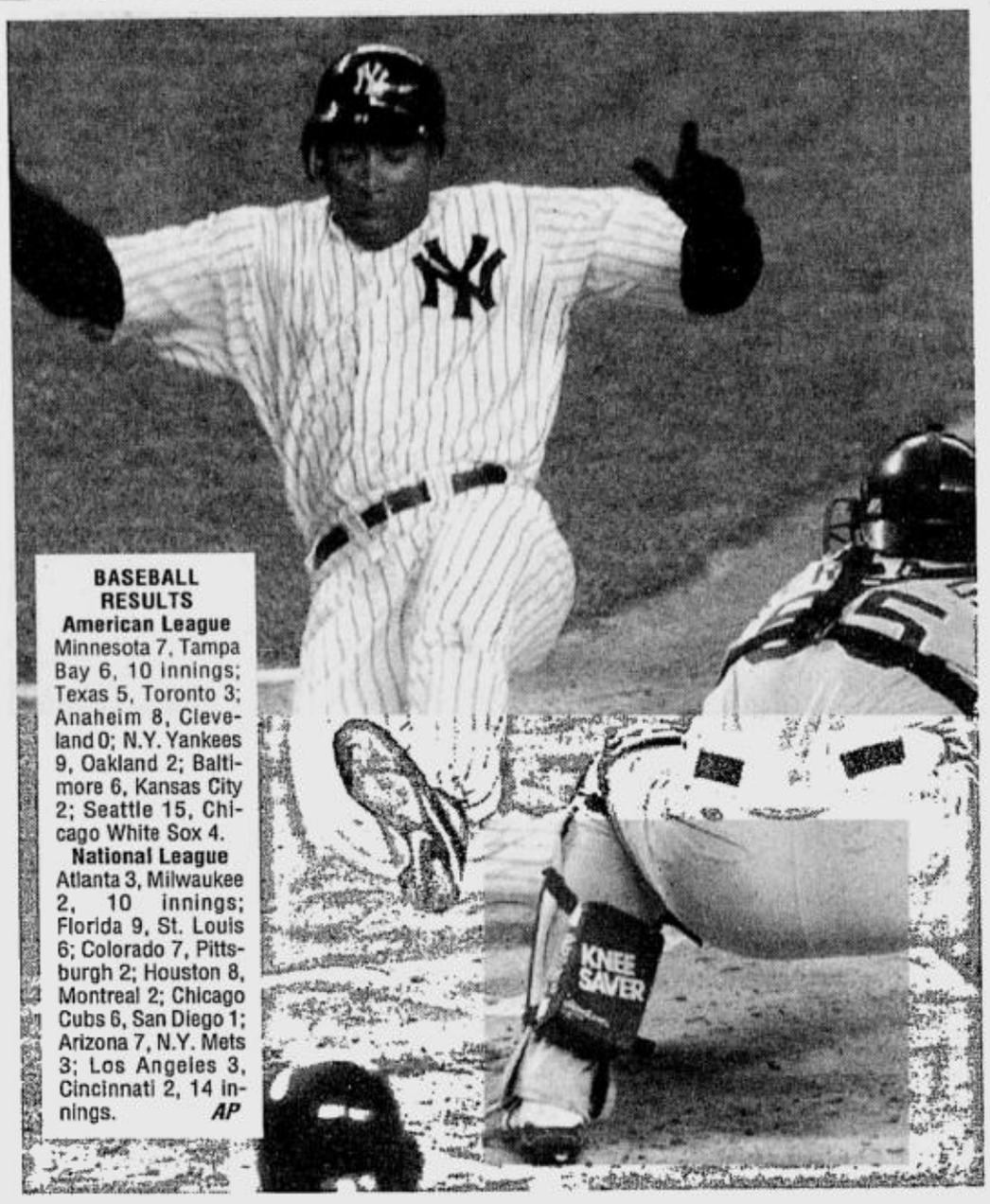
CHAIR Eric Buhain of the Philippine Sports Commission marks his first 100 days in office today amid a stream of continuing support from both the private and government sectors for the country's national athletes and coaches.

Pagcor chair Ephraim Genuino has recently approved P50 million for the construction of two five-storey buildings at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex that will serve as national athletes' dormitories.

A total of 480 athletes, presently cramped at make-shift quarters, will now have the comfort of a condominium complete with receiving areas and laundry facilities, which will be donated by Landbank.

"Foremost in my agenda when I assumed office is to address the plight of athletes and map out a strategy to the advantage of local sports," Buhain said. "That is why I doff my hat to these private and government entities that show genuine concern for the welfare of athletes and sports, in general."

Located near the tennis courts and the gymnastics center, groundbreaking of the 324 square meter area is set this month and construction in cooperation with the National Housing Authority (NHA), will commence soon after.



BASEBALL RESULTS

American League
Minnesota 7, Tampa Bay 6, 10 innings; Texas 5, Toronto 3; Anaheim 8, Cleveland 0; N.Y. Yankees 9, Oakland 2; Baltimore 6, Kansas City 2; Seattle 15, Chicago White Sox 4.

National League
Atlanta 3, Milwaukee 2, 10 innings; Florida 9, St. Louis 6; Colorado 7, Pittsburgh 2; Houston 8, Montreal 2; Chicago Cubs 6, San Diego 1; Arizona 7, N.Y. Mets 3; Los Angeles 3, Cincinnati 2, 14 innings. *AP*

SAFE

New York Yankees' Bernie Williams (left) scores on a double by Derek Jeter as Oakland Athletics' catcher Ramon Hernandez waits for the throw from left fielder Jeremy Giambi in the third inning yesterday at Yankee Stadium in New York. The Yankees won, 9-2. AP

Blu nips Ateneo in 2 overtimes

By Dennis U. Eroa

HARDWORKING Marlon Legaspi and John Paul Prior made the timely hits last night as Blu Sun Power upstaged Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation in two overtimes, 91-88, in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

The 6-foot-5 Legaspi, who engaged Enrico Villanueva in a thrilling battle for supremacy in the shaded lane, took charge as he scored six points in the dying seconds of the game.

Prior also starred in that stretch, converting two crucial charities as the Detergent Kings escaped with their third win in seven games.

The loss dropped Ateneo to solo second at 5-2, yielding the lead to arch-rival ICTSI-La Salle (6-2).

In the second game, Ana Freezers survived an erratic game to repulse Kutitap,74-68, and fortify its bid for a semifinals slot.

The win came after Montaña snapped a four-game losing streak with an 83-50 win over RP-Burlington.

Ateneo's youthful guard Larry Fonacier sank an eight-footer to force the first overtime at 73.

Blu's Aries Dimaunahan returned the favor with a three-pointer, 78-78.

The Freezers Kings committed 26 turnovers, 15 more than the Sparklers'.

But Ana used an effective zone defense to score their fifth win against three losses, the same record owned by their victims.

Dondon Mendoza and Ronald Tubid combined for 14 turnovers, but teammates Ogie Gumatay, James Laygo, Paul Artadi and Roland Pascual filled the void as Ana repeated its 79-73 win over Kutitap last April 15 at the Pasig Sports Center.

STANDINGS	W	L
ICTSI-La Salle	6	2
Ateneo	5	2
Kutitap	5	3
Ana Freezers	5	3
John-O	4	4
Shark	3	4
Blu	3	4
Montaña	2	6
RP Team	0	4

GAMES MONDAY
(Pasig Sports Center)
4 p.m.—Ana vs Shark
6 p.m.—John-O vs Kutitap

RCPI Slashers dump Amigos

GAMES TOMORROW (Lipa Cultural Center)
1 p.m.—Pampanga vs Olongapo
3:30 p.m. –Pangasinan vs Batangas

DAVAO CITY—RCPI Negros blitzed Cagayan de Oro in the first quarter and went on to tally an 83-62 victory yesterday in the MBA First Conference at the RMC Gym here.

Riding on better field goal shooting, the Slashers stormed ahead at 30-11 and coasted along to their sixth win in eight outings that gave them the provisional lead in the Southern Conference.

More important, the Slashers virtually assured themselves of a semifinal slot in the conference.

Cebuana Lhuillier holds a 5-2 record and will share top spot if it beats Professional Davao (5-3) in the second game being played at presstime.

Already out of contention at 1-7, the Amigos simply lost their will to fight back after sinking only 10 of their 33 field goal attempts in the first half, which the Slashers took at 43-29.

Roy Luarca

Abadia enters Coca-Cola netfest semis

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Second seed and Davis Cupper Adelo Abadia stamped his class over ninth pick Nino Salvador, 6-2, 6-0, Thursday night to reach the men's singles semifinals of the first Coca Cola National Tennis Championships at the International Tennis Center here.

Abadia, who scored a 6-4, 4-6, 6-0 quarterfinal victory over No. 16 Raymund Lopez, will meet fourth seed and fellow Davis Cupper Michael Mora III.

Mora, who needed an extra set to beat San Sebastian coach Frederick Morgan, 6-3, 0-6, 6-3, in the quarters last Wednesday, survived former Davis Cupper Rolando Ruel Jr., 6-1, 5-7, 7-6 (8).

Third seed Joseph Victorino and No. 14 Pop Sabandon registered contrasting wins to reach the semifinals of this Group, an event presented by Coca-Cola Bottlers Inc. and supported by Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Chair Felicito Payumo.

Victorino, a protégé of Manila Southwoods Tennis Academy director Manny Tecson, overcame the strong challenge of Marsman Drysdale's Ruel Rubillar, 7-5, 6-4.

Sabandon, who eliminated top seed Johnny Arcilla, had little trouble disposing of unranked Terence Estrope, also of Marsman Drysdale, 6-2, 6-1.

In the men's doubles, top seeds Abadia and Arcilla defeated Antonio Sagansay and Gilbert Estrada 6-1, 6-4, and second seeds Mora and Victorino outclassed Ian de Guzman and Pius Ocampo, 6-1, 6-0, to reach the semifinals of this netfest sponsored by Truflex, PLDT, Union Bank, Chris Sports, Wilson, Prince, Union Cement and Adidas.

Abadia and Arcilla will face fourth seeds Tonito Payumo and Beeyong Sison, who struggled past UST's Gabby Remigio and Karl Santamaria, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4, while Mora and Victorino will meet third seeds Luisito Clores and Jesse Lapore.

SPORTSWATCH

Tan Ho upsets Balce

XAVIER School's Joshua Tan Ho advanced in the boys' 12-under semifinals after posting a 7-5, 6-0 upset win over No. 4 Mark Balce yesterday in the Enervon International Junior Tennis Challenge at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Tan Ho, the 10-under singles and doubles champion in Malaysia last year, will meet top seed Gerard Bergavera of Bacolod, who rallied past No. 8 Francis Alcantara, 6-1, 3-6, 7-5. Seventh seed Gerardo Narvaez of Imus, Cavite defeated Gerard Ngo, 6-0, 6-7 (5), 6-3, and No. 10 El Santo Santos outplayed James Villanueva, 6-3, 6-2, to complete the semifinal cast.

Alas cage clinic up

LETRAN Knights head coach Louie Alas will conduct a basketball clinic at the Letran Gym on May 13-18. The Louie Alas Basketball Clinic will impart values on sportsmanship, hard work and team play. "It is never a waste of time to revisit the basics because it is doing the little things right that will make a difference in the long run," said Alas, who coached the Letran Knights to the 1998 NCAA championship. The program is sponsored by Toyota Otis, Toyota Balintawak, Morinda (maker of Noni Juice) and Nike. Call 0916-4311417 for other details.

Urban Hunt today

THE HUNT for the second batch of finalists for the 2002 Clorets Urban Hunt resumes today with 30 aspirants entered.

The third and last elimination leg, where another 10 out of 30 aspirants will advance to the finals, is on May 11.

Ukay Freaks, Father and Daughter, Itchy and Scratchy, Shy Guys, Tabachingching and Malakas at Maganda are among the teams vying for the next 10 slots in the finals on May 25 where the top prize is P100,000.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, Terton Craft-Philippines beat Thailand, 3-0, to win the 1990 Thailand Open darts tournament in Pattaya, Thailand. Also today in 1993, Mars Pucay shot a one-over-par 73 to rule the 16th Brunei Open amateur golf championship at the Pantai Mentiri course in Brunei.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff at 10 a.m. (r – 6 p.m.) on Star Sports
NBA First Round Playoffs – Seattle Supersonics vs San Antonio Spurs, Game 5 at 10:30 a.m. (r – 6:30 p.m.) on Star Sports
GOLF: LPGA Longs Drugs Challenge, Third Round at 2 p.m. on Star Sports and at 3:30 p.m. on ESPN
PGA Compaq Classic of New Orleans, Second Round at 5 p.m. (r – 10 p.m.) on Star Sports
SOCCER: Goals! at 7 a.m. (r) on ESPN
Spanish League Highlights at 7 a.m. (r – 9:30 p.m.) on Star Sports
Football Asia at 11:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
World Cup Mix at 12 noon (r) on Star Sports and at 8:30 p.m. on ESPN
Futbol Mundial at 12:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
MOTOR SPORTS: Motoworld at 7:30 a.m. on ESPN
SBK Superbike Magazine Highlights at 11 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
BASEBALL: Major League Baseball at 5:30 p.m. (r – 11:30 p.m.) on ESPN

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Anand, Karpov advance to Eurotel finals

PRAGUE, Czech Republic —Viswanathan Anand of Indian and Anatoly Karpov of Russia advanced to the finals of the Eurotel Chess Trophy Tournament Thursday.

Anand advanced by eliminating Vassily Ivanchuk of Ukraine while Karpov defeated Spain's Alexei Shirov in the semifinals.

The tournament is organized as a series of two game knockout rapid matches with blitz playoffs if necessary.

Both matches were decided in blitz playoffs after the two rapid games were drawn.

In the first game, Ivanchuk gained an advantage with Black and was close to winning, but Anand was able to find a study-like draw. Anand defended well in the second, uneventful rapid game.

In the first blitz game, Anand drew comfortably with Black, then outplayed Ivanchuk convincingly to win second.

In the first Karpov-Shirov game, Shirov came out swinging and sacrificed an exchange and a pawn for a strong initiative. *AP*

Paragua downs Garma, grabs lead

INTERNATIONAL Master Mark Paragua defeated fellow IM Chito Garma yesterday to wrest back the solo leadership going into the last four rounds of the National Chess Championship at the 17th floor (Penthouse) of the All Asia Center, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

The 18-year-old GM candidate, who has not lost a match to Garma, had Garma on the defensive for most of the match.

Paragua won his eighth point in the tournament organized by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines and hosted by Lex Development Corp. to move closer to the title and the P150,000 that goes with it.

Paragua employed a rook and queen attack and appeared headed to pocket the P150,000 top prize.

Garma resigned on the 26th when mate became inevitable.

"Maganda na rin yung score ko. Pero hindi ko pa rin masabi na sigurado. Basta game by game pa rin ako," said Paragua, whose last victory over Garma was in Calcutta, India, two months ago.

Paragua's next opponent is Grandmaster Bong Villamayor.

Another young campaigner, two-time national junior champion NM John Paul Gomez, moved dangerously closer to Paragua at 7.5 points after a 57-move win over NM Elmer Sumngat in a King's Indian Defense.

In other boards, NM Petronio Roca downed NM Alex Milagrosa in 35 of a Sicilian to squeeze into a tie for 2nd and 3rd places with Garma, GM Eugene Torre and IM Nelson Mariano with seven points each.

Torre drew his match against IM Ronald Bancod in 39 of a Trompovsky, and Mariano downed NM Joseph Sanchez in 31 of a Sicilian-Rosslimo.

GM Joey Antonio drew with NM Oliver Barbosa in 18 of a Sicilian for 6.5.

NM Barlo Nadera shocked GM Bong Villamayor in their English Defense game.

In women's play, WNM Sherrie Joy Lomibao and semifinal topnotched Rusela Joya agreed to a draw after 45 moves of a French Defense game, while Joann Toledo and Christine Castellano also won their matches.

Lomibao improved to 7.5, while Joya has six points going into the 10th round. Toledo's third straight win—and her 4.5 points overall—came at the expense of Jonalyn Torres, while Castellano downed Daisy Rivera in 57 moves of a Sicilian.

Other boards are still being played as of presstime.

BELGOSA Media Systems corporate communications officer and Chess Asia correspondent Joyce Lompero (left) congratulating Paragua after Paragua won his first GM norm in Mondariz, Spain, in January.

Meanwhile, the National Youth Championship has been moved to May 20-25 at the Centermall of the Greenhills Shopping Center. Registration is now ongoing at the NCFP office at tels. 435-1113 to 1114.

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Editor Louie C. Camino

■ On Target: Congress should investigate frame-up /A22
■ Businesswoman falls for old trick /A22
■ DOJ favored Korina, says her ex-maid /A22

I didn't do it says rich suspect in nurse's slay

By Christian V. Esguerra

FOR THE first time since she was accused of killing her husband's private nurse in Las Piñas last month, Marybeth Lopez de Leon, 57, surfaced and appeared before the Las Piñas prosecutor's office.

De Leon, 57, wife of businessman Jose Vicente Madrigal de Leon and resident of Ayala-Alabang in Muntinlupa, denied that she shot Belma Abella. She made the denial Tuesday in the preliminary investigation by state prosecutor Mario Mangrobang.

Lawyers Alexander Poblador and Jaime Hofilena represented De Leon. Melanio "Batas" Mauricio is the counsel for the complainants.

In a 10-page counter-affidavit, De Leon asked prosecutors to dismiss the murder charge filed against her by Abella's family.

She said she had no motive to kill Abella, whom she described as a "close friend and confidant."

"Hence, this complaint against me...should be dismissed for failure to establish probable cause," De Leon said in her affidavit.

She argued that there was no direct piece of evidence linking her to the killing.

"I am innocent of the crime charged against me," she said in her affidavit. "Complainants herein rely at most on circumstantial evidence, there being no witness who conclusively testified on the actual shooting of Belma."

I DIDN'T DO IT/ A22

Anti-kidnap chief warns on hiring guards, maids

By Alcuin Papa

THE HEAD of the country's anti-kidnapping unit yesterday cautioned the public to closely check the background of the security personnel and household help they intend to hire, warning them that abduction cases involving security guards and maids are on the rise.

EBDANE

Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, chief of the National Anti-Crime Commission's Anti-KFR Task Force (Naftak), said the public should not be too trusting with security and employment agencies when they are looking for security guards and maids.

"The people you hire may be tipping off kidnappers," Ebdane said during a media forum at the Century Park hotel in Manila.

He revealed that the Villaver kidnap-for-ransom group had some security guards as members.

Ebdane's unit busted the group in December, arresting 10 suspects and freeing the kidnapping victim.

The group reportedly operates in Metro Manila and is made up of known criminals from Laguna, Batangas and Visayas.

Ebdane said the remaining members of the group have shifted their activities to Mindanao. He said another kidnap-for-ransom group is also operating in Metro Manila and the Ilocos region.

ANTI-KIDNAP A/22

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DOJ favored Korina, says her ex-maid

By Alcuin Papa

THE FORMER maid of ABS-CBN newsreader and radio talk show host Korina Sanchez yesterday accused the Department of Justice of twisting the law in favor of Sanchez.

In a statement sent to media, Bernadita Inocencio, 42, said DOJ prosecutors "blatantly twisted" provisions of the social security law and the Labor Code to justify the dismissal of criminal charges they filed against Sanchez.

"It was a classic case of one set of laws for the rich and another set of laws for the poor," said Inocencio, who had accused Sanchez of battery and maltreatment.

Inocencio's lawyer, Melanio "Batas" Mauricio, yesterday filed a petition of review asking Justice Secretary Hernando Perez to reverse the resolution of State Prosecutors Robert Lao, Mark Jalandoni and Jovencito Zuno that dismissed the criminal charges against Sanchez for alleged violation of the Social Service System Law and the Labor Code.

In the resolution, the DOJ prosecutors said Sanchez could not be held criminally liable because she had already paid Inocencio's SSS contributions, even though belatedly.

SANCHEZ

But Mauricio said the law "obligates household employers to remit the contributions of their domestic helpers monthly. He added that when Sanchez did not remit Inocencio's SSS contributions for the month of October, Sanchez "already violated the law."

Mauricio said that they submitted records to the DOJ showing Sanchez failed to remit Inocencio's contributions for the months of October, November, and December. He said Sanchez only paid the premiums in January 2002 when Inocencio had already filed charges against her.

"It's not right for the prosecutors to say that no case could be filed against her (Sanchez) even if she paid my SSS contributions late," Inocencio said in Filipino. "The law says she should remit the contributions monthly."

Mauricio also dared Lao, Jalandoni and Zuno to cite any provision of any law, which will support their resolution dismissing the charges.

He is also asking Perez to review the resolution of the DOJ prosecutors.

Last December, Inocencio accused Sanchez and her supposed boyfriend Pol Aquino of beating her up and physically throwing her out of Aquino's Makati City condominium unit.

Sanchez had denied the charges and filed charges of qualified theft against Inocencio.

Lead suspect in boy's slay found dead

By TJ Burgonio

THE ALLEGED mastermind in the kidnapping and killing of a 6-year-old Japanese-Filipino boy committed suicide in his home in Norzagaray, Bulacan, police said yesterday.

Alejandro "Alex" Vargas, 45, hanged himself with an electric cord in his rented apartment in Barangay Tigbe, police investigators said in a report.

A team of policemen found Vargas' decomposing body about 6:30 a.m. on Thursday. He was believed to have been dead for three to four days when his body was found, police said.

Neighbors had earlier reported a stench coming from the apartment.

The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), however, said it would look into Vargas' death to determine if there was foul play.

"We know that a lot of people, including his relatives, got angry with him for allegedly killing his nephew," Director Nestorio Gualberto, CIDG chief, said of the victim.

Vargas, together with four others, had been charged with the abduction and killing of Takeshi Adachi, son of his sister-in-law Ma. Teresa Adachi.

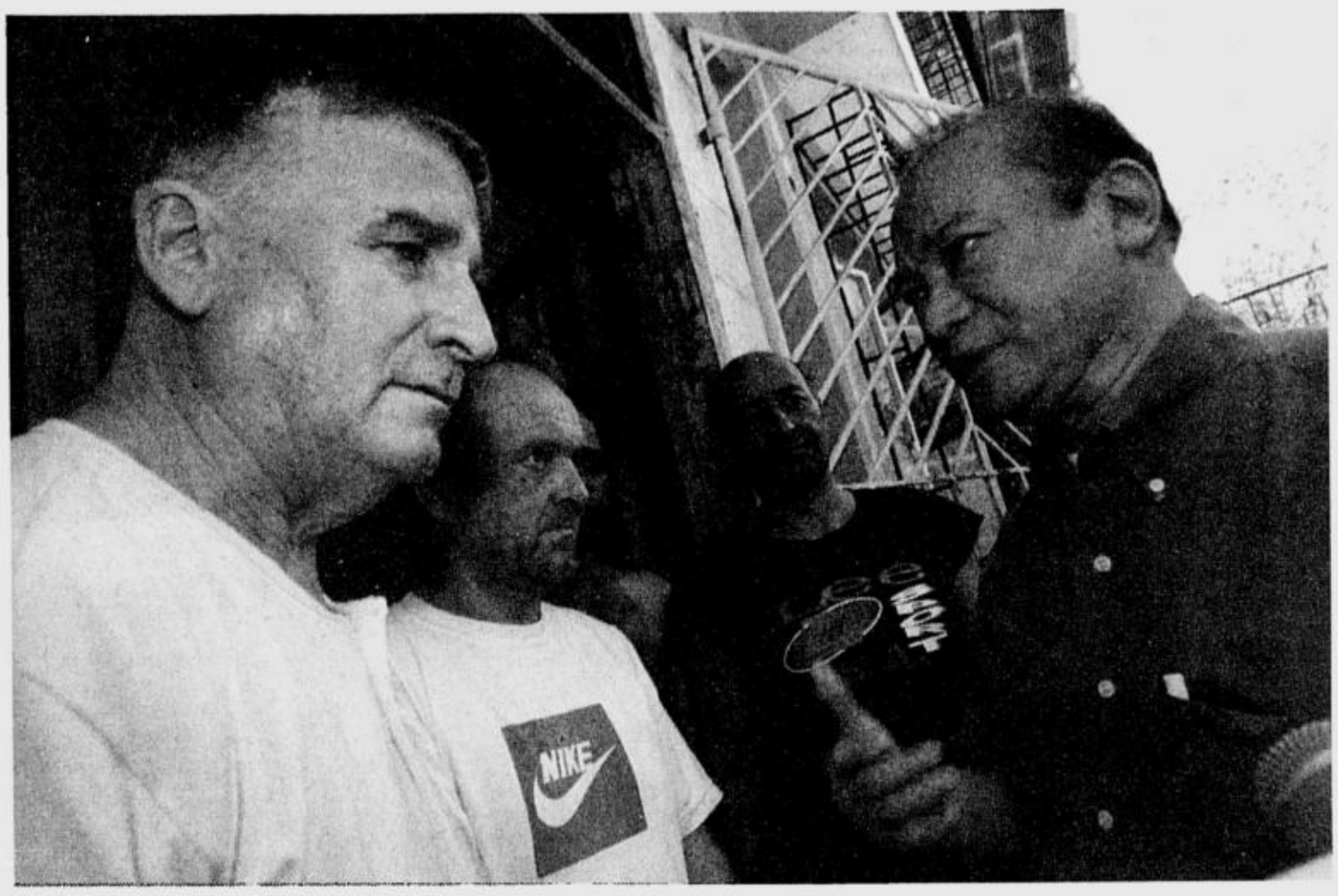
His cohort, Ricky Esperas, who had admitted being part of Vargas' group following his arrest in Laguna last week, said Vargas was the brain behind the boy's abduction and killing.

The young Adachi was abducted on April 15 at his home in a subdivision in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. His body was found in a ravine in Norzagaray four days later, and was buried in a public cemetery. The body was exhumed on April 26.

Vargas and his cohorts broke into the Adachi home on April 15, ransacked the house and drove off with the family's Toyota Revo, bringing with them the boy, investigation showed.

During the break-in, they allegedly killed Vargas' wife and Ms Adachi's sister Nancy, and family driver Nelson Aglahi.

Police said the suspects had intended to rob the Adachis, particularly Ms Adachi who had inherited 90 million yen after her Japanese husband died in 1998.



SURPRISE VISIT

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. talks to foreigners in the Bureau of Immigration detention center in Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Taguig during a visit on Thursday. The detainees told him of their complaints about their cases and alleged anomalies in their detention. ERIK ARAZAS

Policeman shot in Quezon City

By Agnes E. Donato

A POLICE officer was shot and wounded while he was on his way to a mosque in a Muslim community in Quezon City early yesterday morning.

SPO4 Abdulajid Hamdani, 52, of Libyan Street, Barangay Culiat, Quezon City, was shot twice in the back. He is now being treated at the New Era Hospital.

Police believed that a drug syndicate was behind the shooting. They noted that since the victim was assigned to the Drug Enforcement Group of the Central Police District, Hamdani had implicated a number of suspected drug peddlers, including some from his own community.

"Hamdani is definitely on the side of the law," said SPO2 Rafael de Peralta of the CPD Criminal Investigation Unit.

Investigation showed that the shooting took place a few meters from Hamdani's house about 4:30 a.m. yesterday.

The police officer was reportedly on his way to the Al Salam mosque to pray when an unidentified man armed with a handgun suddenly appeared and shot Hamdani.

Wounded, the victim tried to fire back, but his gun jammed.

With Angeli A. Alagcan

Businesswoman falls for old trick

By Alcuin Papa and Tarra Quismundo

NEVER talk to strangers.

Businesswoman Ella Remetrio learned that lesson the hard way five days ago when she lost P400,000 in cash, P30,000 in jewelry and a cellular phone to a stranger, said to be a member of a gang of con artists in Makati City.

Remetrio, 44, of Cainta, Rizal, said she was so shocked that she was able to report the theft only the other day.

SPO2 Rodolfo Octaviano of the Makati Police, the officer handling the case, said that about 9:30 a.m. on April 30, while Remetrio was waiting for a ride on Ayala Avenue in Makati City, a woman who spoke fluent English approached her and introduced herself as a Malaysian.

The suspect did not even bother to give her name when she asked for Remetrio's help. The woman told Remetrio that she had P1.2 million in cash, and she needed a truck to transport 500 oxygen tanks to Baguio.

Remetrio, a religious woman, listened to the stranger's plea.

As the victim and the suspect were talking, two women appeared and joined their conversation. The women directed the victim and the stranger to an alleged trucking firm near the Makati Medical Center.

Remetrio went with the suspect and the two women to the supposed office. When they were outside the building, they met two men who introduced themselves as employees of the trucking firm.

While they negotiated over the rent of a truck, the suspect allegedly showed Remetrio a yellow bag full of money, saying she didn't care how much the truck would cost.

When the two men and the suspect struck a deal, the woman thanked Remetrio and told her she was lucky to have met her.

The suspect said she would reward Remetrio for her help and asked her where she lived. Remetrio fell for the bluff and told the suspect her address.

The suspect then asked Remetrio how to deposit money in a bank. The victim took the suspect, the two women, and the two supposed employees of the trucking firm to Citystate Savings Bank on Chino Roces Avenue in Makati City.

Anti-kidnap chief warns on hiring ...

From page A21

Ebdane also cited the botched kidnapping of an 8-year-old child at the Rockwell Center in Makati City last March. He said one of the cooks of the victim's family had a hand in the kidnapping.

Ebdane called on media to be more careful in writing stories on kidnapping. He said a report containing too many details of a kidnapping case, would compromise the operations against the kidnappers and endanger the victims themselves.

"No scoop is worth the life of a victim," Ebdane said. "(Too much) information can harm the operations."

In his presentation, Ebdane said there has been 28 kidnapping incidents reported in Metro Manila this year, as opposed to 32 for the same period last year.

I didn't do it says rich suspect ...

From page A21

De Leon's lawyers apparently found loopholes in the sworn statements of De Leon's driver-bodyguard Wensis Tablang and security guard Conrado Erasca of BF International Village in Las Piñas.

In his statement, Tablang said he saw his boss alighting from her BMW car and carrying a 9-mm pistol. He said that a wounded Abella was left inside the car, calling for his help.

The security guard told police he saw Tablang wrest the gun from De Leon after the shooting and later transfer Abella to a tricycle.

De Leon and her lawyers argued that based on the sworn statements, neither Tablang nor Erasca actually witnessed the shooting of Abella.

Mangrobang yesterday asked the prosecution to submit on May 17 its response to De Leon's counter-affidavit.

Afterward, De Leon and her lawyers will be given about 10 days to submit a rejoinder-affidavit on the response, Mangrobang said.

The city prosecutor is set to release a resolution on the murder charge against De Leon by next month, he said.

Congress should investigate frame-up

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

A MORNING tabloid reported on Wednesday that I demanded the release of a suspected drug pusher. And when my demand to the Philippine National Police Narcotics Group (Narcgroup) was turned down, so the report said, I denounced the cops who arrested Tristan Ngo, one of the four drug-trafficking suspects.

Narcgroup chief Efren Q. Fernandez was quoted by the tabloid as saying that I made the demand.

Knowing Fernandez, a deeply religious man, I'm sure the tabloid just put words in his mouth. As some foul-mouthed police reporters would say, "in-es-es *ang istorya* (the story was made up)."

* * *

However, if EQ Fernandez was quoted right, I am calling him a goddamn liar!

As in previous columns regarding the incident, I call for a congressional inquiry into the abuses committed not only by the Narcgroup—formerly Narcotics Command or Narcom—on innocent civilians, but also by anti-narcotics units of local police stations.

Planting of evidence on innocent civilians must be stopped. Legislators should pass laws, if they haven't done so yet, imposing stiffer penalties on law enforcers who frame up innocent citizens.

* * *

Yes, I did talk to Fernandez about Tristan Ngo, who at 27 is considered a "special child." But I only asked Fernandez to order a review of the circumstances of Ngo's arrest.

I told the Narcgroup chief it was unlikely Ngo could have been involved in the alleged big drug traffic as he was simpleminded. He couldn't have been a drug addict—as most pushers are 99 percent of the time—because of his physical appearance. Ngo is about 300 pounds and walks like a lumbering bear, as opposed to a drug addict who is usually thin and fidgety.

There's a world of difference between demanding or asking for the release of a crime suspect—"*arbor*" as a Tagalog slang word puts it—by invoking friendship with the arresting officers, and asking for a review of the circumstances, as well as the manner, of the suspect's arrest.

Gago lang ang hindi marunong umintindi nito!

* * *

Supt. Richard Albano, chief of the Narcgroup office in Quezon City whose men arrested Ngo, promised to give in to my request that he talk to Tristan who is now confined at the Quezon City Jail.

He never did.

Had he talked to Tristan, he probably would have found out that his men really framed up the 27-year-old man who thinks and talks like a 12-year-old kid.

Albano was probably afraid to know the truth.

* * *

I made the request to Fernandez to take a second look at Tristan's arrest not as a columnist of the INQUIRER, but as host of the public service radio-TV program, "*Isumbong mo kay Tulfo.*"

I consider Tristan's case as a *sumbong* (complaint) against police abuses, a common fare in my program.

* * *

Here's another case worth looking into by the House committee on peace and order.

Members of the drug enforcement group of the Southern Police District Office raided a house inside the Tahanan Village, an upper-middle class subdivision in Parañaque, recently. They were purportedly looking for illegal drugs in the house. They found none.

Worse, they raided the wrong house.

And, take note of this, honorable legislators, the police didn't have any warrant when they raided the house of Erlinda Bellosillo!

* * *

The anti-narcotics cops, led by Supt. Mariano Fegarido, entered the village on the pretext of reporting to Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez. The guards at the gate told them to pull their vehicles to the side while the guards called the mayor's house.

The cops sped away without the guard's go-signal and immediately proceeded to Bellosillo's house at 146 Don Rufino St.

They broke down the Bellosillos' kitchen door and quickly went to the master's bedroom. At the time, the woman of the house was with her four maids who were shaking in fright.

* * *

The guards, who chased the cops, tried to intervene, asking if the cops had any warrant.

***"May inaaresto lang kami, huwag kayong makialam dito kung ayaw niyong madamay* (We're making an arrest, don't interfere if you don't want to get embroiled in this mess)!" one of the cops told the guards who were held at bay with M-16 rifles pointed at them.**

One of the officers in the group, Insp. Rudolfo Aninoche, arrogantly told the guards: *"Paano yan wala kaming* warrant of arrest (We don't have any warrant, what do you want to do about it)?"

* * *

The policemen didn't find illegal drugs inside Bellosillo's bedroom.

But they did find the following items: one box of expensive jewelry; a "huge amount" of cash; one Gucci wristwatch; assorted compact discs (CDs); and other valuable items. These are now missing.

Many policemen volunteer to take part in raiding houses suspected of having contraband goods not out of enthusiasm in performing their job, but out of a desire to steal.

* * *

A couple of years ago, policemen raided a hideout of the notorious Kuratong Baleleng holdup gang.

All 11 suspected members of the gang who were caught by surprise in that hideout were gunned down, Gangland fashion, by their captors on Commonwealth Ave. in Quezon City.

I was told that the policemen who raided the house confiscated US $2 million, part of the gang's loot still intact.

That big amount was never turned over to the authorities. I was told that it was divided among the men of then Chief Supt. Panfilo Lacson, then the head of the defunct Presidential Anti-Crime Commission or PACC.

IT expert arrested for software theft

By Philip C. Tubeza

A FORMER information technology officer of Thames International Business School might become the first convict under the country's new E-Commerce law, according to National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco.

Caesar R. Mañalac, of Sta. Rosa, Laguna, was arrested for hacking millions of pesos worth of software from the school and then selling them in Canada, Wycoco said.

Vivienne Tan, daughter of businessman Lucio Tan and an official of the school, filed the complaint against Mañalac.

Wycoco said Mañalac was arrested after Judge Elvira Panganiban of the San Juan Metropolitan Trial Court and Judge Amelia Fabros of the Pasig City Regional Trial Court issued arrest warrants against him.

Fabros set an P80,000 bail for Mañalac's qualified theft case while Panganiban set a P12,000 bail for his alleged violation of the two-year-old Electronic Commerce Law.

"This is a high-profile case in the IT world," said Wycoco.

The NBI filed charges in June last year against Mañalac and his fellow school employee Leilani Garcia for the hacking.

Mañalac was the school's IT section support head while Garcia was the school's former Systems Coordinator.

Mañalac resigned from his post last year and Tan became suspicious that he might be involved in the hacking.

Investigators said Mañalac could have copied the files through the school's computer network, which he was not authorized to use.

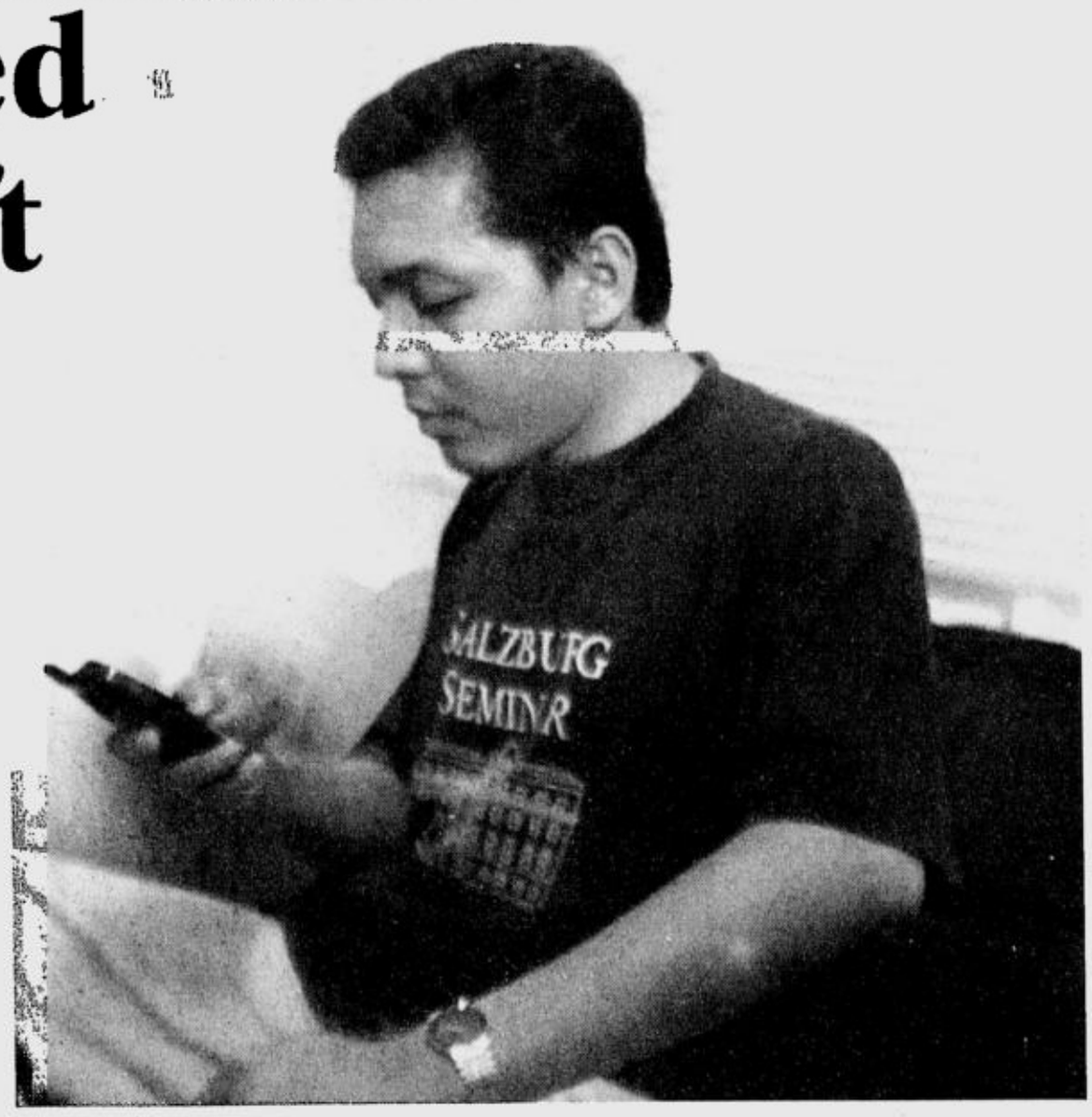
Only Tan and Mañalac allegedly knew the password, investigators said.

Garcia was implicated after he was found to have used the phone line in her residence to access Thames' e-mail account 18 times, from December 2000 to January 2001.

Palmer Mallari, the agent handling the case, said Mañalac also used unauthorized passwords to hide the contents of his computer.

"It is the first case where we used the Electronic Commerce Law as a basis for an arrest. This is a significant development in the world of information technology (IT)," said Mallari.

Congress passed the E-Commerce Law after the notorious "ILOVEYOU" virus, which crippled computer networks worldwide in May 2000, was traced to the Philippines.



HACKING suspect Caesar Mañalac at the NBI headquarters. ERIK ARAZAS

₱22M in fake computer games seized in raids

By Philip C. Tubeza
Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agents seized more than P22 million worth of fake computer game products in eight simultaneous raids on eight computer stores in Metro Manila.

NBI agents hit Fortura Marketing in New Divisoria Mall in Binondo; Gem General Merchandising and Stall No. 9, both in Citimall in Quiapo; the TV Games and Leisure Games Corp. and Smart Gadget Center both in SM North Edsa.

The other stores were the Almano Electronics and Spare Parts, Nherds Billiards and Intertainment Surfing, Global Trading Center and Prosperity Commercial Trading, all in Raon Shopping Center in Quiapo.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said his men confiscated 21,377 CD-ROM game software products, eight modified consoles, 306 game pad controllers and 125 memory cards.

Bundles of labels, including several documents used by the stores in their illegal transactions and in the sale of Playstation software products with fake Sony Computer Entertainment trademarks were also confiscated.

The NBI conducted the raids after the Bengzon and Negre Law Offices complained that the storeowners were selling fake computer software.

Wycoco said agents from the NBI's Intellectual Property Rights Division put the eight stores under surveillance and conducted test buys to confirm the complaints they received.

When they have confirmed the reports, IPRD and NBI Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division agents raided the stores on the afternoon of April 23.

Wycoco said the establishments would be charged for violating the country's intellectual property laws.

MAYNILAD engineers and NBI agents inventory the stolen water equipment.

Stolen Maynilad gear confiscated

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation and Maynilad Water Services Inc. agents arrested on April 24 Samson Solano Cagonia, owner and manager of the Mabina Hardware on Teodora Alonzo Street, Sta. Cruz, Manila, which was reportedly selling stolen Maynilad equipment.

Cagonia was caught in a buy-bust operation conducted by Maynilad's Inspectorate and Anti-Fraud Department (IAFD) and the Intellectual Property Rights Division of the NBI headed by Special Investigator III Glenn M. Lacaran.

IAFD head Gerardo Pilapil Jr. said they were able to confiscate MWSI water meters, valves and fittings worth Pl50,942.

Cagonia has been charged with violation of the Anti-Fencing Law before the Manila City Prosecutor's Office and is detained in the NBI detention cell.

Pilapil said Cagonia's fencing operation came to light when an Eladio Santos brought a brand-new Asahi Thai water meter, with the MWSI letters embossed on it, to the Maynilad Meter Management Division at La Mesa Dam for calibration. When asked how he got hold of the Maynilad equipment, Santos said he bought the water meter from Mabina Hardware.

On March 5, the IAFD conducted a test-buy operation at Mabina Hardware and was able to buy another Asahi Thai water meter, also bearing the MWSI letters. The meter was verified to be MWSI property.

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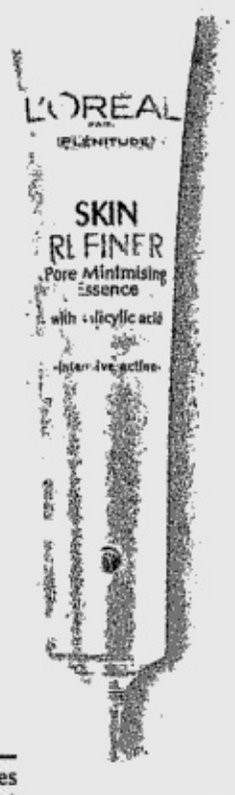

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Raided club 'not connected' to hotel

GRAND Boulevard Hotel management has denied any connection with the operations of Skyline Health Club, which police recently raided for allegedly employing masseuses who were under-aged or had no work permits.

The massage establishment, which leases the entire eighth floor of the hotel, is merely a concessionaire of the hotel, Grand Boulevard management said in a statement. "It is being operated independently, separate from the management of the hotel," it said.

Police said they discovered that the Skyline Health Club employed masseuses who were under-aged or had no valid working permits from the city hall or from other government agencies.

Grand Boulevard Hotel said the operations of Skyline Health Club "are not within the control and supervision of hotel management, like the casino and other establishments, which use the hotel premises as their principal place of business."

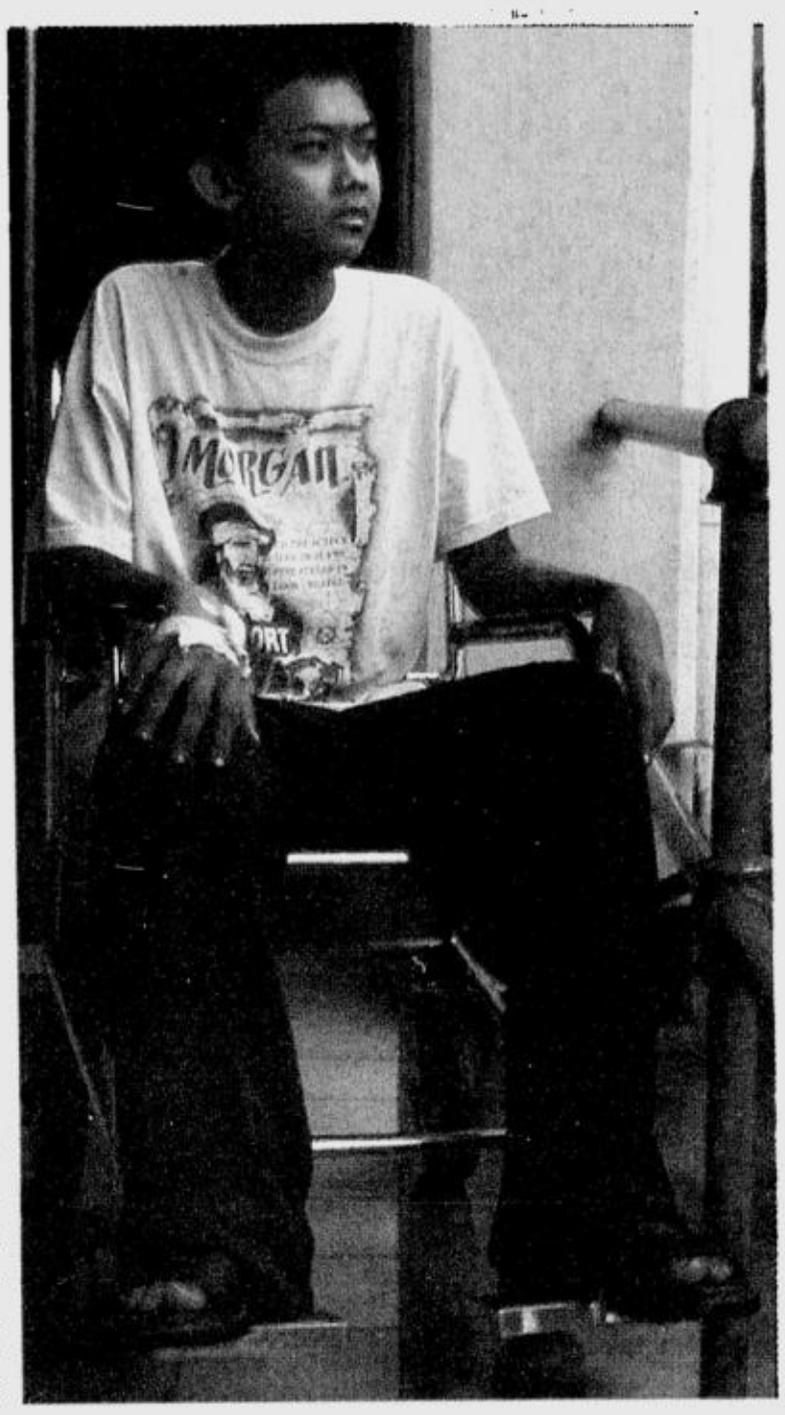
The hotel also stressed that the massage establishment "is not and has not been covered by or included in any and all advertisements and promotions of the hotel."

"Management promises to exert every effort to verify the derogatory information it has received on the operations of the massage establishment," the hotel statement said. "If violations of Philippine laws and city ordinances have been committed, immediate legal action shall be taken against the said establishment for breach of its concessionaire's contract."

It said that at the start of its contract with concessionaires, the Grand Boulevard Hotel made clear that they should comply with all Philippine laws and city ordinances.

"Non-compliance or any slight breach of contract shall be enough grounds to deny the grant of concession or cancellation of the contract," it said.

Ernesto needs kidney transplant



MIRANDA waits, while his sister has offered to donate a kidney.

By Philip C. Tubeza

THANKS to Inquirer readers, 17-year-old Ernesto Miranda Jr. no longer gets violent seizures because of his kidney ailment.

Ernesto now has regular dialysis, but he still needs your help more than ever. Ernesto lost both of his kidneys and he needs to have a kidney transplant. His sister Mary Ann has agreed to donate one of her kidneys to help her brother survive.

A foundation has also agreed to shoulder the costs of the surgery. But Ernesto's doctors want his family to guarantee that they have enough money for his medication before and after the operation.

His family has nearly P200,000 in the bank but it is still not enough to shoulder the cost of pre-and post-surgery medicines that the boy needs.

"He is still not that stable. He still can't go out of the house and play," Mary Ann said in Filipino.

She said Ernesto spends his time watching TV inside the house while waiting for his friends to visit. He also has his regular dialysis and blood transfusion.

Mary Ann, who just graduated and works for a rural bank in Morong, Rizal, said her earnings are not even enough to keep their family afloat.

"We are really indebted to all those who have helped us and we want to thank all of them. But my brother needs more help for his operation," she said.

Some of the kind readers who helped the Mirandas are Violeta Ang, Sonny Nano, Arman Mariano, Noemi Avena, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Go, Howard Tan, Cynthia Pastrana, Requilda V. Raymundo, Andrea and Angela Dulalia, Sheila Tiongco, Rosemarie R. Calingo, Michael, Dulce and Michelle Barretto, Alejandro Tengco, Cases International Philippines, Carol Viray, the Malacañang Clinic, Marilou Miranda of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation, Evelyn Cham, Kusang Loob Foundation, Dondy Alikpala, and Abelino Lugto. Seven anonymous donors also sent donations.

The Mirandas and the Inquirer thank these kind readers for their immediate response to Ernesto's plea.

Within five days after his story came out on March 21, Ernesto's family received more than P62,000. His family prays that readers would be as generous as before as Ernesto aims for his biggest dream: To have a working kidney and get his life back.

Readers who wish to help Ernesto make this dream come true may contact his parents, Ernesto Sr. and Amelia Miranda at 289-3701 or his sister May Ann at 0919-459-9810.

They can also get in touch with Celine Madamba, Inquirer Corporate Relations Officer, at the PDI main office on Pasong Tamo, Makati City, or at 897-8808.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Muntinlupa Rep. Ruffy Biazon (left) and businessman Fernando Zobel de Ayala join Habitat for Humanity Youth Build in constructing several houses in his district. Youth Build 2002 aims to boost the youth's awareness of the housing situation in the country.

Navotas clinic, workshop

NAVOTAS is holding free a sports clinic and a theater workshop for residents of all ages.

The sports clinic covers karatedo, taekwondo and boxing. The instructors are from Sho-Rin Ryu-Hap-Kai-Jai and the Philippine Sports Commission. As of April 26, the clinic had 140 enrollees. It is held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the Navotas Sports Complex.

The seminar workshop on acting, singing and dancing will be conducted by Peta instructors. Like the sports clinic, the workshop will end in the third week of May. The workshops are held at the Bagumbayan Elementary School every Tuesday and Thursday.

As of last week, there were 65 workshop participants.

"It is one way of spending the summer vacation constructively," Mayor Toby Tiangco said.

He said the sports clinic and theater workshop could produce talents from among the town residents.

The sports clinic and theater workshop are a project of the Navotas Youth and Sports Affairs and are a vital component of Tiangco's summer youth program.

TAGUIG 'TILAPIA'

Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga leads in the dispersal of "tilapia" fingerlings in the Taguig portion of the Laguna Lake to help fishermen and residents who depend on fishing as their immediate source of livelihood. Helping Tinga are Councilor Arnel Cerafica and municipal agricultural officer Emelita Solis.

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SPIDERMAN - GP 12:40, 3:20, 6:00, 8:40, 11:20	HELP! I'M A FISH - GP 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40	SPIDERMAN - GP 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00,10:40

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'PROJECT JOSIE'

Teachers teaching teachers, parents teaching kids

By Sheila Samonte-Pesayco

Contributor

EVERY day seems like an election campaign in Bulacan.

The face of Bulacan Gov. Josefina M. de la Cruz adorns many walls of school buildings and public places. Public school administrators use her nickname, Josie, as a rallying cry.

Yet Josie is not just the latest leader to catch the imagination of Bulakeño voters. It is also the acronym of an ambitious, one-of-a-kind reform in public school education in the country: the Joint Systems Improvement in Education Project (Project Josie).

And to "outsiders" like former Finance Undersecretary Milwida Guevara, the enthusiasm sweeping Bulakeño teachers, parents and students toward Project Josie justifies the popularity of the Governor.

"When I visited the place, they recognized me as a fellow Josie member," says Guevara, program officer for The Ford Foundation, which extended a $300,000-grant to the project. "That's how they have strongly bonded with the project."

Getting members to identify with the project is key to Project Josie's success. Before it was launched in May 2001, the provincial government first held an "educational congress" for students, parents, teachers, and school administrators.

98.5 percent literacy

Through the conference, the province realized that the quality of basic education in Bulacan has suffered over the years despite the fact that their literacy rate is 98.5 percent. The poor academic performance of students resulted from the lack of training for teachers, an acute shortage of instructional materials, and the inadequacy of classrooms and teachers.

Like in most parts of the country, Bulacan has only one teacher per class of 50 pupils. Some schools in Sapang Palay have up to 110 pupils per teacher, while others in Del Monte have to institute three-hour shifts extending up to 8 p.m. to accommodate the number of students.

The provincial government also found out that textbooks issued by the Department of Education get easily worn-out and are intentionally not being re-used because of corruption. This jacks up the cost of producing student textbooks and limits the supply.

Bulacan tries Joint Systems Improvement in Education Project

These were some of the reasons why graduates of Bulacan elementary schools scored a measly 18.23 percent in English and 21.72 percent in Math in the National Elementary Achievement Test (Neat) conducted for school year 1998-1999. This meant less than a quarter of its grade six pupils had passed the test.

Gov. De la Cruz, herself a daughter of a former public school teacher and a multi-awardee in local governance, was first to raise the red flag on the dismal Neat performance of Bulakeño students in Math and English.

"We realized that unless we do something about it, we will just end up wasting our time and precious resources educating our citizenry," she said.

Packaging

It took eight months from the educational congress for school administrators to package the project. The provincial government created a project management team and a budget of P6 million for a six-year project that would improve the academic performance of public elementary and high schools in Bulacan.

Bulacan being a consistent recipient of the "Galing Pook" awards, a program of The Ford Foundation that recognizes the best local governments in the country, it did not take much convincing for the New York-ased institution to extend a $300,000 grant to Project Josie.

Initially, 26 teachers were trained under the project at the Philippine Normal University, and then 250 were taught how to train other teachers. The training was cascaded during the summer break and has so far improved the skills of a total of 874 teachers in four districts in the province.

The target is to upgrade the competence of 1,090 Grade I teachers in reading and Math.

Parental guidance

In a survey conducted by Bulacan teachers, project proponents found out that Grade I pupils who do not have pre-school education are lagging behind their classmates who had taken kindergarten. To augment their learning, teachers have volunteered to conduct tutorials in Math and English. While they don't get paid for the extra-work teachers report diligently on Saturdays to accommodate the students.

Wilma Dionisio, 42, president of the Parents-Teachers Association (PTA) at the Barasoain Memorial Elementary School in Malolos, is part of a Parent Learning Support System (PLSS) under Project Josie where a network of parents regularly read to their children.

"Children with parental support perform better in school," Dionisio said. She says parents' roles in their children's educational needs have grown especially now that public school teachers cannot cope with the number of students in a class.

A typical sight in Bulacan is a parent acting as a teacher aide inside a public elementary school classroom, or a group of mothers in a huddle over a school project while their children are attending classes.

Cheerleaders

The concept of a PLSS is actually "nothing new" to Bulacan. Project Josie just institutionalized it, says Gov. De la Cruz. In fact, 10 public schools in Hagonoy, Bulacan had been ranked in the Neat is top 100 high-performing schools nationwide due to the PLSS, she adds.

"Parents are not just there to raise funds for the PTA," De la Cruz said. "They are their children's biggest cheerleaders."

Probably one of the biggest early accomplishments of Project Josie is augmenting the number of textbooks available for students. Instead of knocking on Education Secretary Raul Roco's doors for more budget, school administrators planned and produced their own textbooks based on education department curriculum requirements.

As all of those who contributed to the work were volunteers (even the students who did the art work), the textbooks were made at cheaper cost and became more widely available.

Alternative ways

Barely a year since it started, Project Josie has already caused the training of 874 public school teachers, the publication of nearly 1,500 teaching materials and close to 60,000 English and Math books for Grade I, and a draft manual for parents on their role in their children's education; and an increase in the number of education department-issued books that had been retrieved.

Project Josie is now exploring alternative ways of constructing more classrooms and not being at the mercy of the national government or their congressman's pork barrel funds. It is now studying a build-operate-transfer scheme to entice the private sector to build the necessary 345 classrooms in the province.

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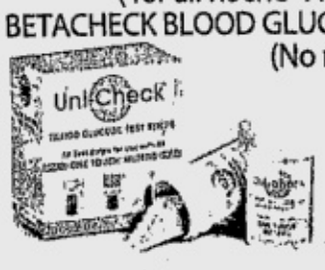

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Robbery suspected in slay of Sex Bomb Dancers manager

By Nelson F. Flores

ROBBERY appears to be the motive behind the killing of the manager of the Sex Bomb Dancers, according to police.

Carlos Santos, 40, manager of the dance group, was last seen alive on Tuesday morning inside a bank on Ortigas Avenue withdrawing P500,000 for the payroll of his dancers, said SPO3 Redentor de Padua, Taytay municipal police station desk officer.

De Padua said a close relative of Santos confirmed the cash withdrawal.

But the cash was missing when the body of Santos was found, police said.

Santos' body was found Thursday morning with a gunshot wound in the face inside a car parked in a golf course in Taytay, Rizal, investigation showed.

Police identified Santos, a resident of Valenzuela City, through the driver's license in his wallet.

Santos' body was already starting to decompose when a security guard found it about 5 a.m. on Thursday in the driver's seat of a Mitsubishi Adventure van (WTJ 459) in the parking lot of the Cruz Con compound inside the Manila East Golf Club, police said.

The body was covered with a blanket, police added.

Police said there were indications that Santos had been shot at close range inside the van.

There is also a possibility that he knew his assailants, police added.

Police ordered to leave Gotesco Las Piñas mall

JUDGE F. Caoibes Jr. of the Las Piñas City Regional Trail Court Branch 253 has ordered Southern Police District Command (SPDC) policemen and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) to immediately leave the Ever Gotesco mall in Las Piñas and "not to commit any acts of interference to the actual possession and control" of the mall.

The court noted that the presence of the policemen from SPDC and CIDG in the mall premises was unnecessary, since there was no court order or request from the deputy sheriff for their assistance, said an Ever Gotesco statement.

The police officers also did not seek the consent of Ever Gotesco to enter the premises "but rather forced their way in," the statement said.

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8	SPIDERMAN
9	CLOSED
10	CLOSED
11	CLOSED
12	CLOSED

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3	SPIDERMAN
4	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
5	BLADE 2
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7	VIDEOKE KING
8	SPIDERMAN
9	SCORPION KING
10	BUKANG BIBIG

SM CITY CEBU
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2	SPIDERMAN
3	BLADE 2
4	SCORPION KING
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6	EVIL WOMAN
7	VIDEOKE KING
8	SPIDERMAN

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

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2	CLOSED
3	SPIDERMAN
4	BLADE 2
5	VIDEOKE KING
6	SPIDERMAN
7	CLOSED
8	SCORPION KING

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4	DEEP END
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3	VIDEOKE KING
4	SCORPION KING
5	SPIDERMAN
6	TIME MACHINE

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1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
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1	SPIDERMAN
2	SCORPION KING
3	BUKANG BIBIG
4	VIDEOKE KING

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2:30pm - Greenbelt 1 • 4:30pm - Glorietta 1 • 7:30pm - Glorietta 4

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Live Action Show and Meet & Greet Schedules
May 5, 6 & 7 - 11:00am, 3:30pm & 6:30pm
Town Plaza

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4 GOLD (DTS)	SCORPION KING
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN
6 GOLD (SDDS)	SPIDERMAN
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN
8	VIDEOKE KING
9	VIDEOKE KING
10	PETER PAN

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
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1	
2	
3 (DTS)	
4	
5	VIDEOKE KING
6 (DTS)	

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2	SPIDERMAN
3	BUKANG BIBIG

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2	SCORPION KING
3	ROLLERBALL
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SPIDERMAN
5	BUKANG BIBIG

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1	VIDEOKE KING
2	SCORPION KING
3	VIDEOKE KING
4	SPIDERMAN
5	BUKANG BIBIG
6	SPIDERMAN
7	
8	

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1	
A	VIDEOKE KING

Sunshine
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2	SPIDERMAN
3	SCORPION KING
4	

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2	
3	
4	ROLLERBALL
5	BUKANG BIBIG
6	VIDEOKE KING
7 (DTS)	SCORPION KING
8 (SDDS)	SPIDERMAN
9 (DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN

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2	VIDEOKE KING

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4 (SDDS)	SPIDERMAN
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6 (DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN
7 (DTS)	SCORPION KING
8	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
9	S2PID LUV

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2	VIDEOKE KING
3	BUKANG BIBIG

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3	

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2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	VIDEOKE KING
5	BUKANG BIBIG

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1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

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1	
2	

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2	VIDEOKE KING

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1	
2	

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1	SPIDERMAN
2	VIDEOKE KING
3 (DTS)	SPIDERMAN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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1	SCORPION KING
2 (DTS)	VIDEOKE KING
3 (DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN
4	SPIDERMAN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

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2 (DOLBY)	SCORPION KING
3 (DTS)	SPIDERMAN
4	SPIDERMAN

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

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2	VIDEOKE KING
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	VIDEOKE KING
2	SPIDERMAN
3 (DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN
4 (DTS)	SCORPION KING

Lianas Cinema
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1 (SDDS)	SPIDERMAN
2	BUKANG BIBIG
3	KALARO
4 (DTS)	VIDEOKE KING

Lianas MovieCity
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4	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
5	SCORPION KING

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2	
3	

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2	VIDEOKE KING
3	SPIDERMAN

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2	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
3	HART'S WAR
4	VIDEOKE KING

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8	BLADE 2

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6	SPIDERMAN

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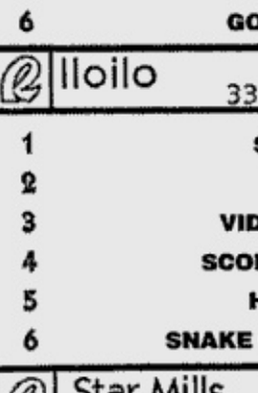

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SCORPION KING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SPIDERMAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	RETUR TO NEVERLAND
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	ROLLERBALL
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	BUKANG BIBIG
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	TIKIM / GIRLS
ODEON	VIDEOKE KING
ODEON-2	SCORPION KING
ROBEN	BUKANG BIBIG
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	BEHIND ENEMY LINES / SUPREME SUNCTIONS

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	BUKANG BIBIG
REMAR	VIDEOKE KING
REMAR-2	BUKANG BIBIG

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	VIDEOKE KING
B	BUKANG BIBIG
C	SCORPION KING

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	I AM SAM
CINEMA-2	SPIDERMAN

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	IKA-7 GLORYA
CINEMA-2	VIDEOKE KING
CINEMA-3	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BUKANG BIBIG
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	E.T.
CINEMA-6	VIDEOKE KING
CINEMA-7	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
CINEMA-8	S2PID LUV
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	ROLLERBALL
CINEMA-12	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
CINEMA-14	I AM SAM
CINEMA-15	VIDEOKE KING

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	I AM SAM
CINEMA-2	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-3	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-4	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-5	HELP! I'M A FISH
CINEMA-6	SPIDERMAN

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

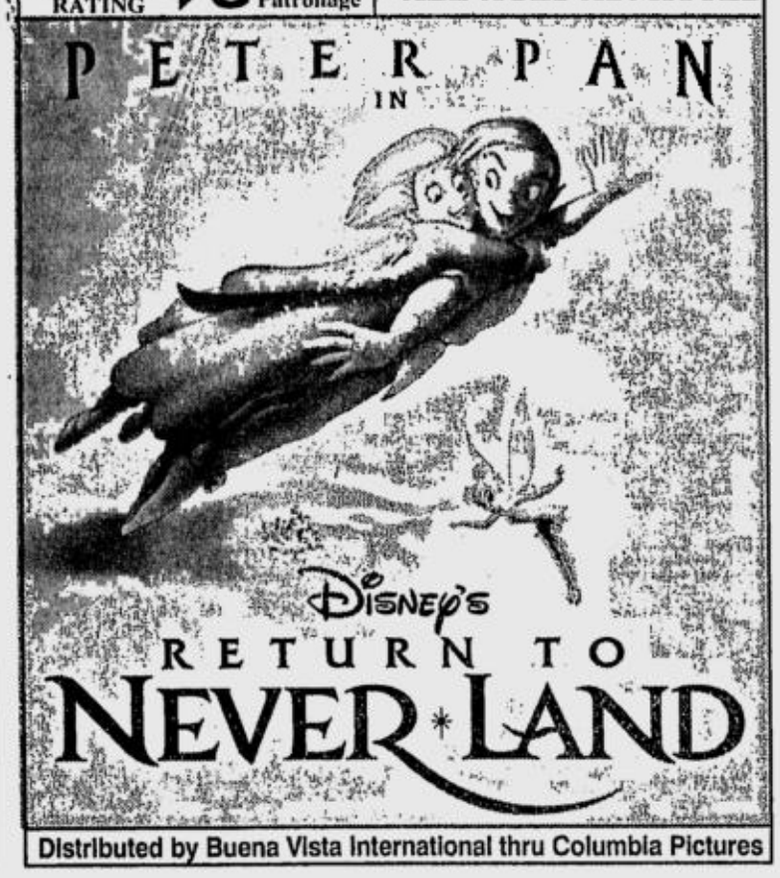
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

SECOND WEEK !

MTRCB RATING G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED

PETER PAN IN



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G1 (GLORIETTA 1)	G4 (GLORIETTA 4)	GB1 (GREENBELT 1)	ATC (ALABANG TOWN CENTER)
1 VIDEOKE KING	1 SPIDERMAN	4 I AM SAM	1 SPIDERMAN
2 SPIDERMAN	2 SPIDERMAN	5 HELP! I'M A FISH	2 SPIDERMAN
3 SCORPION KING	3 SPIDERMAN 1:20 pm/ 3:50/ 6:20/ 8:50/ 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	6 SPIDERMAN	3 VIDEOKE KING
4 SPIDERMAN		7 SCORPION KING	4 SCORPION KING
		1 I AM SAM	5 SPIDERMAN
		2 SPIDERMAN	
		3 SPIDERMAN	
		4 MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE May 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 31 & June 1	

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

MAKATI ALABANG CEBU

SPIDERMAN LIVE!

MAKATI
Live Action Show
May 1, 3 & 4 - 2:00pm, 4:00pm & 6:00pm
Glorietta Activity Center
Meet & Greet Schedules
May 1, 3 & 4 at the Cinema Lobby
2:30pm - Greenbelt 1 • 4:30pm - Glorietta 1 • 7:30pm - Glorietta 4

ALABANG
Live Action Show and Meet & Greet Schedules
May 5, 6 & 7 - 11:00am, 3:30pm & 6:30pm
Town Plaza

CEBU
Live Action Show and Meet & Greet Schedules
May 10 & 11 - 3:30pm, 5:30pm & 7:00pm
Activity Center
May 12 - 11:30am, 3:00pm & 6:00pm
Ayala Food and Entertainment Center

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* An in-depth look at the development and creation of the robots of *A.I.*
* Theatrical trailers, production drawings and hundreds of photos approved by Steven Spielberg exclusively for this DVD release
* And much more!

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METRO

'Search for Heroes of 117' launched

INTERIOR and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina makes a test call in the Cebu launch of Call 117.

TO BOOST the morale of the men and women who make our local communities safer to live in, the "Search for Heroes of Patrol 117" was launched on April 17 in Malacañang.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose D. Lina led national and police officials, representatives of non-government organizations and the private sector in launching the awards.

The 117 Commission is undertaking the search in cooperation with the Foundation for Crime Prevention (FCP) and the Manila Jaycees to honor outstanding units or individuals who make Patrol 117 successful.

The DILG chief said the promotion of an award system will not only uplift the morale of the Patrol 117 people but also heighten citizen participation in public safety, crime prevention and development.

The "heroes" who will be recognized may be the best unit or agency, an outstanding individual, barangay security men or barangays with zero-crime rates.

The DILG will further disseminate information to all units involved in the operation of 117 about the award to encourage participation in the search.

"There is a need to further strengthen the advocacy of the 117 program in order to constantly inform the people of the existence of a government program that assures their safety," Lina, who is also 117 Commission chair, said of the award system.

Coinciding with the awards is the beginning of Patrol 117's nationwide operations, initially in the cities of Cebu and Davao.

During the launch, President Macapagal-Arroyo and Lina presented certificates of recognition to Senior Supt. Leopoldo A. Urena, police chief of Valenzuela City, and 117's Insp. Artemio Delina, SPO2 Olegario Piamonte, PO3 Ferdinand Buban, PO2 Johnny Bueno, PO2 Rolando Balderas, PO2 Alex Diocales, PO2 Miguel Capangyarihan, PO1 Hoover Ireneo.

They were involved in a successful operation which resulted in the arrest of six robbery suspects and the recovery of the money and getaway vehicle.

Also cited in the ceremony was Elgin D. Cuambot, a resident of Valenzuela City, for his "display of courage and timely reporting to Patrol Hotline 117" of the robbery incident that occurred last month at the H-Ramos Plastic Manufacturing Corp. in Valenzuela.

Through the 117 system, the public can report crime incidents or request assistance in cases of emergency by simply dialing 117 on any landline or cellular phone.

PLM to put up 'district colleges'

THE MANILA city government and the Department of Education last week signed an agreement that would allow the city-run Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila to set up "district colleges" to accommodate more students for the next school year.

The memorandum of agreement between Mayor Lito Atienza and Education Secretary Raul Roco allows PLM to use public and elementary schools under the deparment as "satellite campuses."

These schools will be used as sites of the district colleges: Antonio Villegas Vocational School, Ramon Avancena High School in San Miguel and Celedonio Salvador Elementary School in Paco.

The agreement says the PLM may be allowed to use other public schools under DepEd's Manila office should there be a need for more sites for district colleges.

The setting up of the district colleges will allow students easier access to their classes in terms of transportation.

Commuting students would not have to get caught in the daily heavy traffic leading to the PLM campus in Intramuros.

Atienza said the MOA is a concrete manifestation of City Hall's commitment to invest more in the education of Manila's youth.

"Aside from being the most effective poverty alleviation measure, investments in education are also an investment in the future of our city, our people and our country," the mayor said.

Roco said City Hall's efforts to extend access to education, especially among the poor, complements the national government's education agenda.

Also present in the memorandum signing were city schools superintendent Dr. Ma. Luisa Quinones, and PLM president Dr. Benjamin Tayabas.

Jerome Aning

Munti sets up literacy council

THE MUNTINLUPA City council finally approved the ordinance creating the Literacy Coordinating Council to be chaired by Mayor Jaime Fresnedi.

The literacy council will enable the city to participate in the National Literacy Award, which is also joined by other local government units. The ordinance on the literacy council was principally sponsored by Councilor Raul Corro.

In November 2001, the city government recorded a grand slam when it won the first places in all three major categories of the Department of Education's General Literacy Awards—Regional Level. The awards included best local government unit, best in non-formal education and most outstanding social worker.

It was the third consecutive year that Muntinlupa won the major awards in the literacy competition.

Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao naka-Touch Mobile Na!
touch

SATURDAY
MAY 4, 2002

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

B1

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

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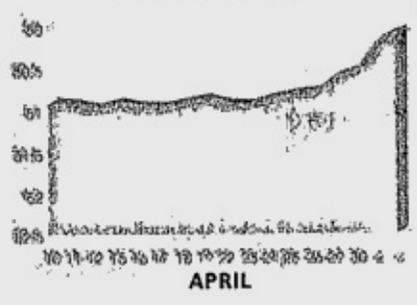
Slowing export decline bodes well for economy

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY RONNIE CABUANG

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 50.100 = $1
As of 5 p.m., May 3, 2002

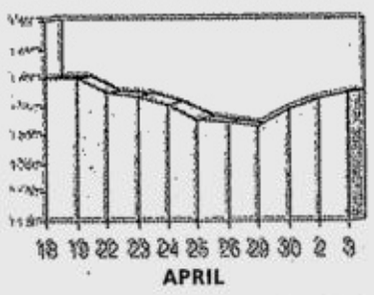
¥ 127.16 = $1
As of 5 p.m., May 2, 2002

GOLD: $309.00/ 309.50
per ounce Hong Kong, May 3, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end up

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



STOCKS closed higher for the third straight session yesterday as a firmer peso and strong first quarter earnings from the country's largest bank, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., lifted market sentiment.

"We have a strong peso boosted by strong inflows. This will help companies which are still experiencing a forex drag and hopefully cushion impact of rising world crude prices," said A&A Securities research head Astro del Castillo.

(See stock market report on Page B2)

The peso strengthened to about 50.11 to the dollar, an 11-month high, from Thursday's 50.2 after the government statistics office announced exports in March were only marginally down from a year ago, the best performance by the economy's key driver in 14 months.

The main index closed 12.27 points or 0.9 percent higher at 1,375.59 points on thin volume of P549.48 million. Gainers beat losers 36 to 32 and there were 43 stocks unchanged.

For the week, the main index was up 3.9 percent. *Reuters*

By Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE merchandise exports dropped by a meager 0.7 percent in March from a year ago, the smallest contraction seen in the last 14 months, as the global economic recovery started to improve offshore demand for local goods.

The National Statistics Office reported yesterday that receipts from the country's export of goods stood at $2.85 billion in March, bringing the first quarter export earnings to $8.11 billion or only 5.3 percent down from the same period last year.

Analysts said the latest number was more positive news for the perky peso and in line with a government forecast of a modest rise in exports in 2002 following last year's precipitous 15-percent fall.

The peso strengthened to about 50.11 to the dollar, an 11-month high, from Thursday's 50.2 after the data was announced, but officials were quick to declare that the higher exchange rate did not pose any threat to exports.

"Not at these levels," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said when asked during a television interview if the new strength of the peso could affect exports. He added that the peso remained competitive against currencies of export rivals, specially Thailand.

Analysts said the smaller decline in the contraction of export receipts in March confirmed that a recovery in exports, a main driver for economic growth, was imminent. They said this was consistent with the rebound in imports and manufacturing output starting February.

The last time the Philippines posted a positive growth in exports was in January last year. Most of the country's exports use imported inputs, which thus makes the import level a significant indicator of future export performance.

The 0.7-percent export contraction in March narrowed down further from the 6.4 percent and 9 percent year-on-year declines in February and January this year as well as the double-digit contractions last year.

Electronic components remained the country's top export, accounting for 54.5 percent of total receipts. The annual decline in earnings from the sector stood at 3.9 percent in March, much better than the 12.5-percent drop in February.

Other top exports for the period were articles of apparel and clothing accessories; ignition wiring set and other wiring sets used in vehicles, aircraft and ships; woodcraft and furniture, and metal components.

Of the country's total exports for March, the lion's share of 90 percent consisted of manufactured goods while agro-based products accounted for 4.5 percent. The rest consisted of special transactions, mineral and petroleum products.

The United States and Japan remained the country's top export destinations, accounting for 25.2 percent and 15.1 percent of total receipts. The March exports to these two countries still declined by 6.7 percent and 14 percent, respectively.

In an interview, Salomon Smith Barney analyst Juan Benedicto Trinidad said the improvement in the country's export performance for March was reflective of a similar recovery in

SLOWING/ B2

Banks' housing, car loans surged in 2001

By Clarissa S. Batino

BANK loans to car buyers have gone up by 20.8 percent as of end-2001 to P34.8 billion from the previous year and higher by 4.5 percent from P32.8 billion during the third quarter, documents from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed.

The exposure of the country's 104 savings banks to the real estate sector also grew by 8.5 percent to P37.3 billion last year from P32.7 billion in 2000 and higher by 2.4 percent from P34.3 billion in the third quarter of 2001.

A central bank official said the rising level of car and property loans was an indicator of improving consumer spending and the increase in loans was an indicator of improving consumer spending as it came at a time when lenders were said to have been reluctant to extend credit aggressively.

Accounting for 71 percent of the total, the thrift lenders' car loans rose by 17.1 percent year-on-year to P24.16 billion as of end-2001 from P20.6 billion and up by 1.9 percent from P23.71 billion the previous quarter.

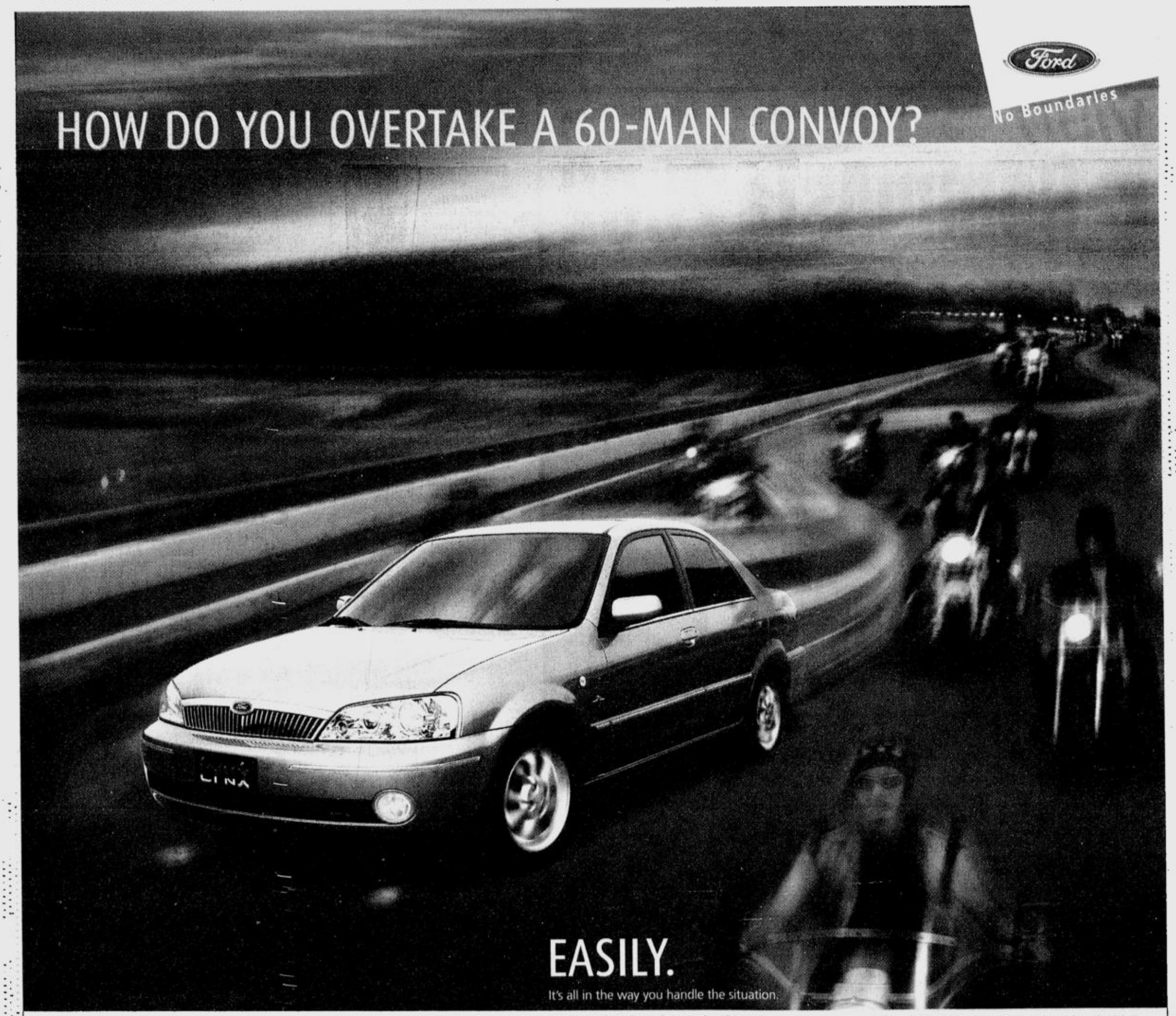
The commercial banks' auto loans soared by 30.4 percent to P10.1 billion last year from the previous year's P7.74 billion and by 11.1 percent from P9.09 billion a quarter ago.

Car loans of the commercial banks accounted for only 0.6 percent of total loans as of end-2001 from 0.5 percent a year ago.

The thrift banks' car loan exposure also rose to 17 percent of total loans from a 15.4-percent share in year 2000. Thrift lending to real estate last year also grew slightly to 26.1 percent of total loans from 25.4 percent in 2000.

Last year, the past-due car loans worth P2 billion for both commercial and thrift banks stood at 5.9 percent of total loans.

BANKS/ B2



Gov't, Lucio Tan group sign ₱25-B rehab plan for PNB

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT and the Lucio Tan group yesterday signed the P25-billion rehabilitation package for Philippine National Bank that would pave the way for the financial recovery of the country's sixth largest lender within the next five years.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho yesterday said the signing of the memorandum of agreement will start the rehabilitation of the bank. The agreement came with the blessings of the Department of Justice, the Senate and Malacañang.

Camacho added that the government, based on the suggestion of the Senate, would pursue improvements to the agreement even after yesterday's signing.

PNB had borrowed P15 billion from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and P10 billion from Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. on Oct. 6, 2000. The bank had settled only P1.1 billion of these loans.

Of the remaining P23.9 billion in obligations of PNB to the government, the agreement would convert P7.8 billion into equity at P40 per share.

The conversion would raise the government's ownership through PDIC to 44.98 percent from 16 percent and consequently reduce Tan's interest from 67 percent to 44.98 percent.

Another P10 billion of PNB debts would be used by the government to settle its own debts to the bank. The remaining P6.1 billion would have to be restructured into a 10-year loan.

"The framework for the bank's rehabilitation is already in place with this agreement. I am confident that with the quality of PNB's management team, the bank will be back on its feet, hopefully even sooner than five years and therefore we can privatize (our holdings)," Camacho said.

The agreement was signed nearly four months after its original schedule and nearly a year after the debt-to-equity conversion of part of the P25 billion in government advances in PNB was planned.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura also welcomed the signing of the agreement.

"I am happy that the long drawn-out affair came to a conclusion so that we could now focus on the bank's rehabilitation in order to bring the bank back to its former glory," said the central bank chief.

Camacho said the government would like to sign a "side letter" that would indicate the government's intention to discuss with the Lucio Tan group ways to improve the agreement.

For instance, Camacho said the Senate had suggested that instead of allowing PNB to restructure its remaining P6.1-billion debt within 10 years, the government could pursue a payment-in-kind arrangement.

"We may be able to work out a dacion, for instance, of the PNB headquarters in Roxas Blvd.," said the finance secretary.

The Senate had also suggested that the government extend the five-year term of the agreement in the event that PNB's recovery take longer than that. Camacho said this recommendation could also be tackled in future discussions with the Tan group.

The finance chief said the management team would craft a business and financial plan that would set the framework for the bank's recovery.

The bank registered a net loss for the fourth straight year in 2001. Last year's losses stood at P4.5 billion or 24.6 percent lower than the previous year's P5.97 billion.

The bank's non-performing loans stood at 49 percent of its total loans in the first three months of the year. Camacho said the bank should focus on this area.

"The MOA already addresses a need for additional equity, takeout of some of the NPLs, improve the bank's liquidity and restructure management. We expect a more detailed rehab plan soon," he said.

Camacho said the government and Tan had agreed to sell jointly once the bank has recovered sufficiently and market conditions permit a mutually beneficial sale.

Camacho, together with PDIC president and PNB director Norberto Nazareno, BSP's Buenaventura and Finance Undersecretary Cornelio Gison, signed on behalf of the government. Lucio Tan represented his interest together with Mariano Tanenglian and his lawyer, Estelito Mendoza. PNB chair Francisco Dizon, president Lorenzo Tan and directors Feliciano Miranda Jr. and Domingo Chua signed the MOA for the bank.

Slowing export decline bodes well . . .

From page B1

the export earnings of Taiwan and Korea whose biggest exports were likewise electronic products like the Philippines.

"Exports are tapering off in terms of decline. However, as in any recovery, it's not likely that we'll see the same level of growth seen in previous years. But the global economy is on the way to recovery so our exports are likewise normalizing," Trinidad said.

Trinidad said the encouraging export performance for March reflected better economic prospects for the Philippines for the rest of the year.

Jomar Lacson, an analyst with foreign broker DBS Vickers Securities, said the March export performance was better than he had expected.

"I was looking at a recovery in exports by June. This means that a positive growth in exports could start as early as April," Lacson said.

With this development, he said the government's target of a 1-1.5 percent growth in export earnings this year was likely.

"Exports are usually romped off by the third quarter. But even the banks are saying that there has been an improvement in lending early this year, so the impact is positive," Lacson said.

In 2001, the country's exports contracted by 15.6 percent, the first time in 17 years that the country suffered from a full-year decline in exports.

Most economists are now saying that the fallout from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States had not been as severe as originally expected and that the rebound of the US economy was now benefiting the rest of the world.

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SCHEDULE OF CONFERENCE

ICT Growth and Development in South East Asia

MAY 9 (THURSDAY)
1:30- 2:15pm A Global View of the ICT Industry by: Peter Wallace
2:15- 3pm The Future of Investment in South East Asia by: Paul Brown Kenyon
3:15- 4pm Growth Areas/Business Opportunities Available in the Philippines
4- 4:45pm Analysis of ICT Developments in the Philippines

SCHEDULE OF FREE SEMINARS

MAY 9 (THURSDAY)
1 pm- 2pm New Paradigm in IP Analysis / by: Acterna Asia Pacific Pty Ltd
2 pm- 3pm An Exceptionally Flexible and Cost-Effective Optical Communications System by: Brand-Rex Biolite
2pm - 3pm Hanap-Buhay.com - OnLine Recruitment / Job Search by: Intellech Resources
3- 3:30pm Primer to Land XML by: Autodesk / GIS Aranet / CIM Tech
3pm - 4pm Modulys by: Socomec Sicon
3pm - 4pm Plasma Display Panel by: LG Colins
3:30- 4pm Mobile Backup by: Computer Associates
4- 5pm Powerpoint Presentation: Northgate Cyberzone by: Northgate Cyberzone
5- 6pm How to Project your Best Image by: Micro Data Systems

MAY 10 (FRIDAY)
10:30 - 11:30am Bullet-proofing Your Network by: American Power Conversion
11am- 12nn Radiant Asset Monitoring System: Practical GPS for Professional Use by: Asian Navigation & Tracking Systems, Inc.
11:30 - 12:30pm Why should I care about E-Learnings? by: Cyberstation.Com Phils.
1pm- 2pm Dotenable Products by: Dotenable.Com
1 - 1:30pm Telepromplers - Prompting for Professionals by: Actel, Inc. / Telescript
1:30- 2:00pm GlobeCaster All-in-One Solutions- Studio-in-a-Box by: Actel, Inc. / Global Streams
2pm-3pm Global Leader in Electrical Energy Storage Solutions by: Exide Technologies
2pm- 3pm Real Time Patching (Structure Cabling) by: Molex
3pm-4pm Barco Projection Systems for Different Work Applications by: Audio Visual Diver
3pm- 3:30pm Voltage & Current Protection for Telecommunication Networks & Equipment by: Porta Systems
3pm- 4pm 3 COM Wireless & Security by: 3 COM
3:30- 4:00pm e-Business Security Solutions by: Computer Associates
4- 4:30pm Open Packet Telephony by: Actel, Inc. / Cisco Systems
4pm-5pm Secure Transactions using Smart Cards by: Nextstage / Mondex
4pm- 6pm American Tech. Inc.
5pm-6pm Worldcom Products and Services by: MCWORLDCOM PHILS

MAY 11 (SATURDAY)
10:30-11:30am All about Batteries by Outlast Battery
1pm- 2pm Providing You Total Business Control by: Comtel Communications Inc.
2 pm- 3pm State of Wireless in the Philippines by: Digital Filipino
4pm- 6pm AGM and GEL Technology by: Metcom Industrial, Inc.
5 pm- 6pm Electro Voice: The Sound System of Choice by: Micro Data Systems

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DISCLOSURES

DIVERSIFIED Financial Network Inc. increased the number of its directors from nine to 11.

* * *

UNION Bank of the Philippines will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 24, 4 p.m. at the Manila A & B Hall of Makati Shangri-La. Only stockholders as of April 10 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

BENPRES Holdings Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 4, 8 a.m. at the Meralco Theater. Stockholders as of May 13 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

LIBERTY Flour Mills Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 29, 4 p.m. at the boardroom of Liberty Building, Makati City. Only stockholders as of April 17 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

PHILIPPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 11, 4 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom of Dusit Hotel Nikko. Only stockholders as of April 12 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

SECURITY Bank will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 28, 9 a.m. at the 21/F Auditorium of Security Bank Center, Makati City.

* * *

JUPITER Systems Inc., subsidiary of **iVantage Corp.,** clarified that although it was considering listing its shares in stock markets abroad, concrete steps have yet to be taken.

* * *

KEPPEL Philippines Holdings and **Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.** will hold their respective annual stockholders' meeting on June 20. Both set May 16 as record date for stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, May 3, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	70	70	70	70	985,500
China Banking Corp.	625	625	625	625	550
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	39	40.5	38.5	40.5	348,800
First E-Bank Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	6,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	41	42	41	41.5	293,900
Philippine National Bank	53	53	53	53	5,200
Phil. Savings Bank	27	29	27	29	600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	12.5	12	12	30,600
Security Bank Corp.	18.75	19	18	18	32,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.25	24.25	23.25	24	112,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	150,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1450	1450	1445	1450	4,990
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1100	1105	1100	1105	17,500
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	30	30	30	30	13,100
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.62	0.64	0.61	0.61	3,320,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	640	645	640	640	41,140
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	1,600,000
Piltel	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	1,250,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	280,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	445	462.5	445	457.5	95,800
Ivantage Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	120,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.019	0.019	0.018	0.019	23,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	25	26.5	25	26.5	27,700
Manila Electric Co. B	40	42	40	42	1,623,300
Petron Corp.	1.68	1.74	1.68	1.72	6,027,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.78	1.8	1.78	1.8	257,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	10,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.95	2.95	2.85	2.85	1,123,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	15,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	5,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	130,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	10,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	26,700
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	31	31	30	30	340,100
RFM Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.28	1.28	596,000
Swift Food Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1,000
San Miguel Corp. A	49	50	49	50	196,200
San Miguel Corp. B	57.5	58	57	57.5	352,400
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	100
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.4	60,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.42	0.42	0.4	0.4	30,000
Ayala Corp.	6	6.1	5.9	6	3,160,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.14	2.22	2.14	2.22	387,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.46	1,730,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	10,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0095	0.0095	0.009	0.0095	41,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.7	2.85	2.7	2.85	35,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	200,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.61	0.66	0.61	0.65	6,750,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.28	0.31	0.28	0.31	1,520,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.5	6.1	6.5	26,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	20,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.5	1.52	1.48	1.52	725,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	29	29.5	28.5	28.5	211,900
Global Equities Inc.	0.115	0.13	0.115	0.13	2,270,000
Ionics Inc.	7	7	7	7	1,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	107,000
Macroasia Corp.	1	1	1	1	50,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.82	0.84	0.82	0.83	1,900,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.28	0.26	0.26	4,210,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	40,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.84	0.84	100,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	340,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.105	0.11	1,000,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	100,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	300,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	30,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	910,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	330,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	120,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	30	31	29.5	29.5	1,406,500
Equitable PCI Bank-War	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	10,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	750	765	750	765	5,010
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	3,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	200
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0046	0.0048	0.0046	0.0048	11,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.2	8,965,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.37	70,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	30,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.38	0.41	0.38	0.41	3,770,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.28	11,330,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	3	3.1	2.95	3.1	11,854,000
Highlands Prime Leisure	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.06	1,940,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	170,000
SM Development Corp.	1	1	1	1	8,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.4	4,656,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	500,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	10,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.	0.04	0.041	0.038	0.041	37,800,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	30,000
Omico Corp.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	28,000,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	3,800,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	11,700,000
Interport Res.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	56,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	17,000,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	6,200,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	800,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	10,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	20,000

CURRENCIES

May 3, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.104118	1.000000	50.3620
Japan	Yen	0.008634	0.007820	0.3938
United Kingdom	Pound	1.615988	1.463600	73.7098
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.141573	0.128223	6.4576
Switzerland	Franc	0.686044	0.621350	31.2924
Canada	Dollar	0.706772	0.640123	32.2379
Singapore	Dollar	0.609673	0.552181	27.8089
Australia	Dollar	0.592657	0.536769	27.0328
Bahrain	Dinar	2.928852	2.652661	133.5933
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.294432	0.266667	13.4299
Brunei	Dollar	0.609875	0.552364	27.8182
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000118	0.000107	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.025600	0.023186	1.1677
UAE	Dirham	0.300612	0.272264	13.7118
Korea	Won	0.000863	0.000782	0.0394
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.905700	45.6129
Brazil	Real	0.465385	0.420345	21.1694
Denmark	Kroner	0.134603	0.121573	6.1227
India	Rupee	0.022651	0.020458	1.0303
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.291362	0.263158	13.2532
Mexico	New Peso	0.117025	0.105697	5.3231
New Zealand	Dollar	0.493130	0.445395	22.4310
Norway	Kroner	0.132218	0.119419	6.0142
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018499	0.016708	0.8414
South Africa	Rand	0.105020	0.094854	4.7770
Sweden	Kroner	0.107992	0.097538	4.9122
Syria	Pound	0.025163	0.022727	1.1446
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032045	0.028944	1.4577
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001288	0.001163	0.0586

Banks' housing . . .

From page B1

This level was lower than the previous year's 7.2 percent but was higher than the 5.7 percent during the third quarter of 2001.

Despite a lower exposure, the ratio of soured car loans for the bigger lenders was higher compared to the thrift banks although a marked improvement in car loan quality of the commercial banks was seen last year.

Past-due auto loans of the commercial banks stood at 7.83 percent from 11.17 percent as of end-2000 and from 8.43 percent of the third quarter of 2001.

For thrift banks, the soured car loans ratio was at 5.14 percent of total loans as of end-2001 from 5.68 percent a year ago and 4.7 percent during the third quarter.

Past-due property loans of thrift banks was lower at 2.7 percent of the total loan portfolio from 2.9 percent in the third quarter of 2001 and 3 percent in year 2000.

Industry groups seek transfer of tariff commission to DTI

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE FEDERATION of Philippine Industries and other members of the Fair Trade Alliance want the Department of Trade and Industry to wrest control of the Tariff Commission from the National Economic and Development Authority to establish a more unified trade policy in the face of escalating trade hostilities between nations.

FPI chair Meneleo Carlos said the DTI has a better appreciation of the dynamics of foreign trade and the condition of local industries.

FTA convenor Wigberto "Bobby" Tañada said the Neda has shown its bias for trade liberalization in the past decade, which explained the Tariff Commission's decision reversing the DTI's findings that cement imports were hurting domestic producers. "How can they (Tariff Commission) say cement imports do not pose a threat to the domestic industry when they account for more than 20-percent market share?"

Both Carlos and Tañada bemoaned the difficulty in availing of quota and tariff shields under the Safeguard Measures Act, which should have been one of the safety nets for industries coping in a free-trade market. They have likewise pushed for the resignation of the Tariff Commission members led by Edgardo Abon.

Aside from taking over the Tariff Commission, the FPI and FTA are urging the government to appoint a trade negotiator who would review and handle all international trade negotiations with a view to insuring fair trade and market access of Philippine products.

Carlos said that Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II should be allowed to assume broader powers in steering the country's trade policies and handling international trade negotiations.

The FPI and FTA said the domestic industries and agriculture producers should have guaranteed seats in any negotiation of international trade agreements.

The FPI and FTA are also lobbying for an end to the unilateral tariff reduction program and to pursue an industrialization program for industries and a modernization program for agriculture to strengthen and enhance their competitive and productive capabilities.

UNIONBANK

NOTICE TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS

April 26, 2002

Dear Stockholders:

Please be informed that during the Meeting of the Board of Directors of UnionBank of the Philippines ("UBP") held on April 26, 2002, the Board approved the setting of record date for stockholders entitled to forty (P0.40) centavos cash dividends to be on **May 10, 2002.** Payment date will be on June 5, 2002.

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Corporate Secretary

Hotel firm offers to buy back shares

By Doris C. Dumlao

GRAND Plaza Hotel Corp., owner and operator of the Heritage Hotel Manila, yesterday announced a twin-fold program to buy back more of its own shares from the stock market and further increase the equity control of its shareholders.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, GPH said it would offer to repurchase one share out of every 20 shares held by each stockholder as of record date of May 31 this year, using the company's unrestricted retained earnings.

The buyback price was set at P50 per share, which stood at a premium of more than four times the prevailing market price. GPH shares were last traded on April 30 and closed at only P12 per share.

The buyback of shares is a usual practice among companies with sufficient earnings which believe that their shares have been undervalued by the market. Among the big companies that have been actively buying back shares in the PSE are Jollibee Foods Corp., Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc., San Miguel Corp., La Tondeña Distillers Inc., RFM Corp. and Megaworld Corp.

The disclosure also said GPH would further reduce its authorized capital stock from P1.27 billion to P1.15 billion in order to retire 12 million treasury-held shares or those bought back from the market. The reduced authorized capital of P1.27 billion will be divided into 115 million shares with a par value of P10 each.

Philamlife nets ₱2.5B in 2001

By Elena R. Torrijos

PHILIPPINE American Life and General Insurance Co., the country's biggest life insurance company, yesterday reported that its net income last year amounted to P2.5 billion.

This was a 5-percent decline from the previous year's income, which had included gains from non-recurring items. Excluding those items, net profit in 2001 was up 16 percent the year before, Philamlife officials said in a press briefing yesterday.

The company's gross revenue last year also rose 9 percent to P14.1 billion from the previous year's. At the end of 2001, total volume of life insurance in-force reached P207 billion, 10 percent higher than a year ago.

Philamlife president Jose Cuisia Jr. projected that the company would continue to grow significantly this year.

He forecast that for this year, first-year premiums would rise by 15 percent.

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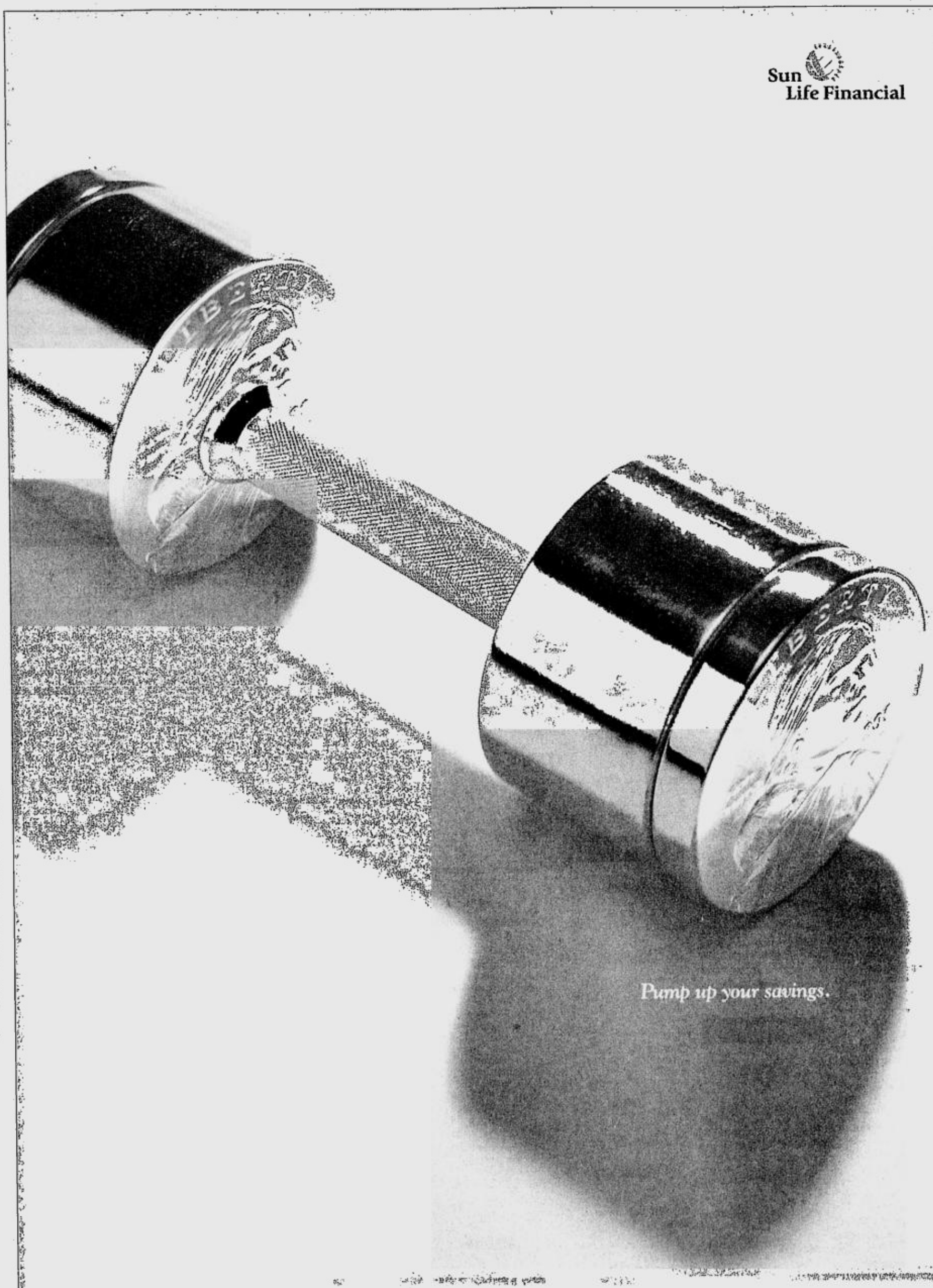

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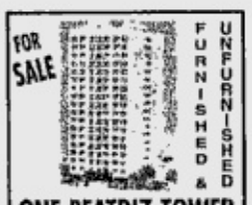

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PLEASANT VILL w/proposed rd direct to FILINVEST ALABANG 477m² P4,500/m² SOUTH GREENHEIGHTS VILL 300m² P1.15M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

PARANAQUE

BLS 509m² 521m² 526m² UPS5 392m² 8239255 Lucy

East Serv Rd Posadas 791m² Comml Vlot •842-0046•

Tahanan 280m² Morning Sun Greenhts 120m² P7800/m² Multinat 200m² 340m² 400m² T8294430 CP 09164261734

PASIG

PRIME LOT GREENPARK 300m² near Robinson 9316928 Net

QUEZON CITY

Ayala Heights 579sqm opposite new park 911-2222 ofc hrs

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

QUEZON CITY

LA1000 Fairview QC V-Lot 0919-4024967 • 929-8376

★ FERNDALE QC ★
Ayala Res Lots New Phase 204-290m² @ P9,500-P12,160
Pay 20%(in 2 months)
Bal 5 yrs. Mo. Interest
HSES & LOTS - 3BR 3TB 150 - 300 FA 200-300 LA @ P6M P13M 2 yrs - 10 yrs
Term w/ Complete Facilities
9319117 ★ 9319160 T.Banez

RIZAL

290m² Kingsville Subd. besides Forest Hills Golf Course Bo. Mayamot, Antipolo 1.9M 952-0616 912-0597 430-9327 0919-5987840 Ditas / Baby / Jun

PROVINCIAL

ATTENTION
Manufacturers & Investors
Cavite Light Ind'l Park
Phase 1 Ready for Move-in
Phase II at Php. 1,600/sqm
Maguyam Rd, Carmona Cavite
Tel. 635-8108 /634-2956 Rey
Brokers are Welcome

TAAL Bldngs 200m from Diversion Rd LA6794m² P1.4M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

OTHER AREAS

TOWN&COUNTRY Southville 209m² P680T Vic 8903461L.27

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MANILA

NEAR ST. SCHO
BNewTwnhse/4stry/3br/3tb/grge
P3.173M up 8903461 loc 34

PASIG

Casa Verde 7.5M Net 5BR 5TB 3Pkg Garden DBO 671-3125

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QUEZON CITY

CUBAO CONDO 1.4M 9132224

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1BR 1TB 52.96m² 10%DP
10-15 years to pay RFO
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for as low as P10,000 monthly!!!
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visit our model units at 76 Ignacio Santos Diaz Cubao, Quezon City

UNION SQ ONE FA80m² P1.9M 1BR 2T&B Vic 8903461 loc. 27

SAN JUAN

RUSH !!!
Promenade Place SJ Townhse 3 Storey 186m² 3BR 2.5TB 4AC Kitchn Appliances, Heater 2Cargarage 5Min Greenhills 5.5M 09178334323 7215703

OTHER AREAS

Lakeview Manor Taguig 1BR w/Parking P1M Call 671-2563

MEMORIAL LOT

ETERNAL GARDENS Baesa QC LOT Good for 2 interments Nicely situated nr Main Gate P60T TxtCall 09175490868

RESORT

BEACH RESORT Mindoro Bar/Rest/Priv Bungalows Ph 09164247378

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CLUB SHARE & MEMBERSHIP

FANTASY WORLD SHARE P105T Only 633-7601/03

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

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MANILA

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MANDALUYONG

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MUNTINLUPA

838 L25 Soldier Hills Munt. City P5500 809-8079

QUEZON CITY

Strong Water #15 Tampoy St., Project 2 QC

HOUSE

MAKATI

SANLO DUPLEX 5268048

PARANAQUE

MGV Pque 2sty 5BR4TB w/ phone CP09195546815 Didi

Sun Valley Paranaque 4BR 3TB 40T/mo. CALL 772-5027

QUEZON CITY

2BR NR ATENEO 7T 6819727

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House w/Office Space & 2 Car Garage T. Sora QC 272-9961 • 935-9729

Ldys Nr. UP Diliman 5243126

PROVINCIAL

B'New Sn Jose Vill. 5 nr. Laguna Technopark
3BR 1MdQtr 2Cg 4TB w/terrace, patio 952-0616 912-0597 430-9327 0919-5987840 Ditas / Baby / Jun

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

SSH nr CASH & CARRY 1-3BR,56-115sqm 10-18T/mo P&L2 CONDO 551-2586

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2% w/o TAKING CAR 3670169

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L Business Personal Gigie/Ernie 8903461 loc. 26/23

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

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Makati City Office Space
308.45 sqm Tel 635-5051/54

Ground Floor Office Space 4 Rent Parktrade Madrigal Biz Park 50 sqm 09175288239

MARKET AVE PASIG CITY 2nd Flr-385 sqm; 3rd Flr-500sqm Contact Tel 628-8622

Mindanao Ave nr cor Cong Ave QC Ofc Space-MEZZ 100m²;2/F 100m² Comi Space Unit D w/ pkng 100m² 3624713;3624579

Nr BUENDIA along PTAMO 38/85/62/185m² 1st class Bldg. 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs

SSH nr CASH & CARRY 45-92sqm Gr-3/F 10-25T/mo P&L 2 CONDO 551-2586

Store Spaces
P1500/mo. Valenzuela
Bulacan Wet & Dry Area
Call 926-4070/72 ; 924-1402

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HYUNDAI

1999 STAREX VAN P520T
ENDING PLATE 8
LOW MILAGE
CALL CELL# 0917-5383184

ISUZU

ELF CANTER SUZUKI 9126976

MERCEDES

MBenz white 230E imprtd w/ sunroof fully loaded nr mint condition 420T must see 4260188

TOYOTA

TOWNACE A/T 238T 9267433

VOLVO

VOLVO for Sale 8991811

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Delica Safari Mu Trooper HI Ace 9120647

BUSES/TRUCKS

ISUZU ELF 99 P170T Good Running Condition Vic/Gigie 8903461 loc. 27

HEAVY EQUIPMENT/TRANSPORT

Executive Aircraft Beechcraft Baron B55 Fax (02)650-9018 For Information

Sale loader Pison Genset 4x4 Kubota 4x4Loader F-Lift 3672002

PARTS & ACCESSORIES

SIDE MIRROR Anti theft device T563-5025/5068

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

Starex MB100 Coaster Bus Call 631-3496 • 637-7396

BNew L3 8533103/09163443087

BNEW VAN 8254058 8261045

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WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8890215

CAR LOAN

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 3546928

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

FURNITURE

YAMAHA PIANOS
Grand & Upright T7213124

PETS

•AM COCKER SPANIEL•
5MONTHS PEDIGREE 8160148

DOG TRAINER 4528681

SPORTING GOODS

BILLIARDS P33/36/38T A1 Qlty B.New 8014494/8020566

Sea&Sea MX-10 with YS-40A Flash Close Up Lens & Macro Lens Pelican 1450 Carry Case Peso 40,000 PHO 8160148

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WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5633742 5646593 09178473744

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

HIRING MALE MASSUERS Tel. # 713-0553 (DON)

FEMALE

2Female Medtech 1X-ray Tech 1ComSec 2RegNurses 656-0887 Gerlie / Glen / Amy

Need PRE-ED Teacher
Call 655-0609

Off Staff 09163683453

SECRETARY / BOOKKEEPER Female 20-30yrs old Single College Grad. w/ experience. Computer literate can type 40words/minute/residents of SFDM QC/nearby Brgy. Send Resume and Transcript of Records to: Tita Remy Soriano's Residence, 32 Capillan St. Brgy San Antonio SFDM, QC

MALE/FEMALE

•Ofc Staff 18-45y/o w/w/oexp Start asap 9134470 Teresa

BSEED, BSE, COL. PROF Tel. # 7246756; 9265049

CARE GIVER T5280722

DepEd NCR Marikina City OSEC DECSB Tch1 30315 2000 Concepcion High School

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Send your Comprehensive Resumé and Transcript of Records
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Tel. No. 365-0593 look for Emy

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

MR. HENRY BOTER

Please be informed that the person, whose name and picture appears above, is no longer connected with FERD ENTERPRISES (Authorized Distributor of Grolier International, Inc.) effective April 11, 2002. Any transaction or representation made by Mr. Henry Boter for and on behalf of the company will no longer be honored.

(PDI - May 4, 2002)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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HAIR DRESSER
For SM Megamall Branch 0917-8396538

•HAIRDRESSER•
CALL 895-6031 L2011

★OFCSTAFF9134470MADEL★

• VETERINARIAN •
w/ or w/o experience 8175511

Need Professional Choreographer Contact: K'ANN PROMOTION Cavite 0464163432 Free Board & Lodging & High Salary

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• VETERINARIAN •
w/ or w/o experience 8175511

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

MARA PAWNSHOP BR. of 2410-18 P. Gil St. Sta. Ana Manila. Auction Sale on May 10, 2002, Friday at 2:30 in the afternoon, respectively, Dec. 11-Jan. 10, 2002.
Sons of J. Lanuza, Auctioneer

MARA PAWNSHOP I,II,III,IV and Comembo Br. of Makati City. Auction Sale on May 10, 2002, Friday at 2:30 in the afternoon, respectively Dec. 11 - Jan. 10, 2002. - Sons of J. Lanuza, Auctioneer.

MI MARA PAWNSHOP of 251 Quirino Ave., Baclaran Paranaque. M.M. Auction Sale on May 10, 2002, Friday at 4:00 in the afternoon. Respectively, Dec. 11 - Jan. 10, 2002.
Sons of J. Lanuza, Auctioneer.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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earn-and-travel.com
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PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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643-5529; 0917-7922363 Ver

NOTICE OF LOSS

This is to inform the Public that Passport No EE705706 issued to FRANCISCO B. DEBULOS JR with reentry Visa was lost April 16, 2002 at the LTO QC.
(PDI- 4/20, 27 & 5/4,2002)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER (NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen.

(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.)

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

HEAD OFFICE
897-8808 loc. 514, 516; 899-4425; 897-2535; 897-8425 (Telefax)
CUBAO
912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)
MAKATI
892-5578; 811-4361; 811-4370
KALAW
528-0213; 527-3342
MEGAMALL
635-0219; 635-0220

EDPITAF

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
IMPLEMENTING TASK FORCE

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITION

Public Health Nurse I

- SG 12; Bachelor of Science in Nursing; at least 1 year relevant experience; 4 hours of relevant training ; must be creative and innovative; preferably not more than 35 years old; Eligibility: RA 1080 (Registered Nurse); Salary Range: P10,000 to P11,000

Qualified applicants must send their resumé, transcript of records, recent ID picture and other credentials to:

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICE
DepEd-EDPITAF
Dorm D, DepEd Complex
Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

Deadline for submission of application is on May 10, 2002.

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
GENCO 6

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID
G6-2002-005

The NPC-GENCO 6 wishes to invite interested parties to pre-qualify and to bid on the items listed below:

SCHEDULE		ITEM/DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
		DATE OF BIDDING : MAY 20, 2002; 2:00 PM	
A1	1 UNIT	MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL LIFTER	3TIW-02-0004
A2	1 SET	OIL PURIFIER	3TIW-02-0031
A3	1 LOT	STEAM STRAINER ASSEMBLY	3TIW-02-0032
A4	5 SETS	RECORDER, PAPERLESS, YOKOGAWA	3TIW-02-0029
A5	6 UNITS	TURBINE ROOM SUMP PUMP	3TIW-02-0038
A6	1 SET	DRIVE AIR IMPACT WRENCHES, WITH COMPLETE SOCKET SIZE & HOSE	3INGP-02-0022
		DATE OF BIDDING : MAY 21, 2002; 2:00 PM	
B1	1 LOT	JO' SUPPLY OF LABOR AND MATERIALS IN THE REPLACEMENT OF PORTION OF MAIN STEAM PIPELINES	3TIW-02-0022
B2	1 LOT	JO' LABOR AND MATERIALS IN THE NOISE PROOFING OF EJECTORS	3TIW-02-0020
B3	1 LOT	WO' REHAB OF SUCTION PIT STRAINERS OF COLD BASIN	3TIW-02-0017
B4	1 LOT	REPAIR OF ANNUNCIATOR RELAY	3TIW-02-0041
B5	3 SETS	BATTERY, LEAD ACID, STATIONARY	3TIW-02-0039
		DATE OF BIDDING : MAY 22, 2002; 2:00 PM	
C1	2 UNITS	DIESEL ENGINE PUMP	3TIW-02-0040
C2	2 UNITS	COMPRESSOR, P/NO116001 OF MODULAR CHILLER AND 16 OTHER ITEMS	3TIW-02-0037
C3	12 PCS	LOCK OUT RELAY	3TIW-02-0017
C4	3 SETS	ANNUNCIATOR CONTROL RELAY AND 10 SETS OF SIMILAR ITEM	3TIW-02-0009
C5	1 LOT	SUPPLY OF LABOR AND MATERIALS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF STORAGE RACKS & SHELVINGS	3INGP-02-0010

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules on:

1) B1 - May 13, 2002; 10:00 am at SLRC Bidding Room
2) B2 - May 13, 2002; 11:00 am at SLRC Bidding Room
3) B3 - May 13, 2002; 1:00 pm at SLRC Bidding Room
4) B4 - May 13, 2002; 2:00 pm at SLRC Bidding Room
5) B5 - May 13, 2002; 3:00 pm at SLRC Bidding Room

Complete sets of bidding documents and other particulars may be obtained from Procurement, Traffic and Warehousing Services (PTWS) Section, Administration Division, GENCO 6, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P25.00 and P50.00 per schedule for single and two envelope, respectively starting **May 7, 2002**. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Non-accredited suppliers can get pre-qualification papers and submit the same for evaluation not later than **May 14, 2002** before they are allowed to bid.

Only those pre-qualified shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Bids will be received at the SLRC Bidding Room, NPC-SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 2:00 o'clock P.M. on the dates specified above after which said bids will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

All bids regardless of price offer must be accompanied by Bidder's Bond in the form of Cash or Certified Manager's/Cashier's Check, or a GSIS Surety Bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price.

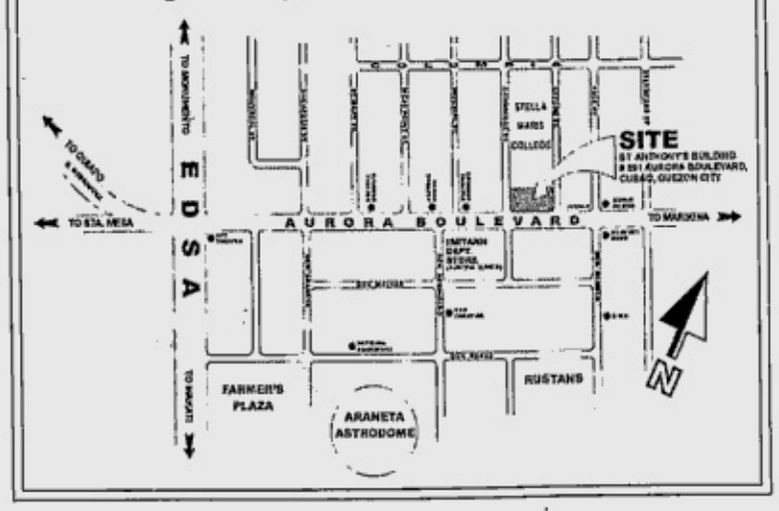
The NPC-SLRC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the NPC-SLRC's action.

(Sgd.) **R. J. MEDINA**
Manager, Administration
GENCO 6

(PDI--May 4, 2002)

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

Aurora branch is now open to serve your Classified Ads requirements.
For inquiries, please call **912-9008** to **11**.



We need immediately!

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS

Interested applicants must be:

- Graduates of Journalism or Mass Communication from prestigious college/ universities
- Must have at least one year experience in production work in a publication
- Must have hands-on experience in layouting pages and proofreading
- Must be comfortable with office softwares or any related pagination or editing software

Interested individuals are encouraged to e-mail their application letter and resumés to
blindad02@lycos.com

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT
METRO MANILA
Welfareville Compound, Bgy. Addition Hills
Mandaluyong City
Tel. # 71830-98 or 535-4529

SENTSONG SIGLA Health engineer

April 30, 2002

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
CHD-MM BAC-ITB NO. 2002-01

The Department of Health-Center for Health Development-Metro Manila (CHD-MM) invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following, for the use of CHD-MM chargeable against GOP funds:

1. **Drugs & Medicines**
2. **Medical, Environmental, Surgical & Laboratory Supplies**

Only duly accredited suppliers/manufacturers/distributors as certified by the Suppliers Accreditation Committees for Drugs and Medicines and for Medical, Dental, Environmental, Surgical & Laboratory Supplies & Materials of the Department of Health are qualified to participate in this bidding.

Bidding documents can be secured from Mr. Henry Mendiola or Ms. Elenita Esmero, at Bldg. 1 2/F Regional Director's Office, CHD-MM, Welfareville Cmpd., Brgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE HUNDRED PESOS, Philippine Currency (P 500.00).

Schedule of Activities

a) Issuance of Bid Documents	May 6-15, 2002 (9:00 AM-2:00 PM) Building 1 2/F, Office of the RD
b) Submission of Eligibility Requirements	May 15-17, 2002 (9:00 -12:00 AM) Conference Room 2, Training Bldg.
c) Pre-bid Conference	May 21, 2002 (9:00-12:00 AM) - Medical, Environmental, Surgical and Laboratory Supplies May 21, 2002 (1:30-3:00 PM)-Drugs & Medicines Amphitheatre; Training Bldg.
d) Submission and Opening of Sealed Bids	June 6, 2002 (8:00-9:00 AM)-Medical, Environmental, Surgical and Laboratory Supplies Conference Room 1, Training Bldg. June 6, 2002 (9:00-10:00 AM)-Drugs & Medicines Amphitheatre, Training Bldg.

All activities will be held in CHD-MM, Welfareville Compound, Brgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City.

For further information contact the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) secretariat c/o Mr. Henry C. Mendiola at tel. # 718-3098 (Drugs & Medicines), or Ms. Elenita Esmero at tel. # 718-3097 & 535-4521 (Medical, Environmental, Surgical & Laboratory Supplies).

The BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process anytime prior to the award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the CHD-MM's action.

(Sgd.) **DAVID J. LOZADA, JR., MD, MPA, CESO III**
Director IV, CHD-MM

(PDI--May 4 & 11, 2002)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. Project: **Sp99.N4P4.Vc-0282, Construction, Erection and Installation of 138 & 69 kV Substation Equipment for Schedule I - Cadiz S/S in Negros, Occidental.**
2. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall consist of furnishing all construction plant, labor, materials, supplies, tools and equipment excluding materials and equipment specified to be furnished by TRANSCO and the construction/erection and installation of 50MVA Substation.
   Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid:
   Schedule 1 - Cadiz S/S - P53,275,954.00
3. Application for Eligibility is open to Filipino contractors with the following valid License and Registration Particulars issued by PCAB.
   License Particular:
   Schedule I - Cadiz S/S "Category AAA - Specialty: Electrical Works"
   Registration Particular:
   Schedule I - Cadiz S/S "Large B - Specialty: Electrical Works"
4. Application for Eligibility (legal, technical and financial documents and statements) shall be evaluated using "PASS/ FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by TRANSCO in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding; and shall be subject to Postqualification before an award is made. Bid prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.
5. Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance starting April 25, 2002 at the Bids and Contracts Management Department, Second Floor, Building No. 2, NPC-OBC, National Transmission Corporation, Agham Road corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1104, Telefax No.: 921-2308 upon presentation of Letter of Intent, original PCAB License and a payment of non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 per copy.
6. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility Forms, documents and statements shall be on **May 27, 2002** and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
7. TRANSCO reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality there in, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
8. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **R. T. BACANI**
Chairman
Contracts Award Committee

(PDI - April 30, May 4 & 8, 2002)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

PHILIPPINES 2000 Sama-Sama sa DECS

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education through the Health and Nutrition Center is inviting all manufacturers/suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for 1,633,680 packs of fortified instant noodles for the implementation of the Breakfast Feeding Program (BFP) for School Year 2002-2003. The approved budget for the project is P5,800,000.00.

All interested manufacturers/suppliers must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining bid documents starting **May 8, 2002** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Room 112-A, Mabini Building, DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd website at http://www.deped.gov.ph

A pre-bid conference will be held on **May 16, 2002, 10:00 AM** at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The Submission and Opening of Bids will be on **May 30, 2002** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids.

(Sgd.) **RAMON C. BACANI**
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INQUIRER RiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Mah-jongg

Q. What does 'mah-jongg' mean?

A. Mah-jongg is an old Chinese game introduced into Europe, America and other parts of Asia in the early 1920s. The 144 (or sometimes 136) dominolike pieces used in the game are called tiles, and they are divided into five or six units. The name comes from the Guandong (Cantonese) word *mah-jeuk*, meaning 'sparrow; or 'hemp bird,' and that's because of the sparrow depicted on the first tile of a set. The game became a great fad among American women from 1922 to 1925, outselling radios, causing a shortage of calf shinbones in China (used to make the tiles), and inspiring an Eddie Cantor song titled ' Since Ma is Playing Mah-jongg.'

Ooops! Chinese checkers, the game played with colored marbles on a star-shaped board, did not originate in China, nor was it invented by a Chinese. It is a modern version of a 19th-century English game called Halma which became popular in the United States in the 1930s. The name Chinese checkers most likely derives from the similarity between the game's star-shaped board and the star on the national flag of China.

Past Forward. This day in 1917: Nicomedes "Nick" Joaquin, noted writer and journalist, was born in Paco, Manila. The author of several acclaimed books, the multi-awarded Joaquin (a.k.a. Quijano de Manila) was conferred the title National Artist in Literature in 1976.

WORD WATCH

Lethologica (lee tho loj i ka) : the temporary inability to remember the proper word or a name—that "on-the-tip-of-my-tongue" situation.

RP, India in ₱868.5-M trade swap agreement

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE PHILIPPINES will export to India at least P868.5 million worth of agricultural products and industrial goods, as well as information technology workers over the next two years, Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor has said.

In an interview on Thursday, Montemayor said this was part of a "counter-trade agreement" between the Philippines and India.

The Philippines bought last month some 100,000 metric tons of rice from India to cover a portion of its buffer stock requirement in the lean months of the third quarter.

"We were able to strike a counter-trade arrangement with India regarding the rice import whereby they will buy from us goods and services whose value will be equivalent to the total amount we will pay for their rice," Montemayor said.

Montemayor said the Philippines would ship to India assembled motor vehicle parts, artificial gypsum, metal scraps and microelectronic parts, including chips and integrated circuits.

The Philippines may also send IT workers to India to provide services there, according to Montemayor.

In return, India offered to send its agricultural experts to the Philippines to train local farmers on production, marketing and distribution technologies.

These experts are also expected to share their post-harvest skills in the area, especially inventory control and warehouse supervision.

Montemayor added that should India agree to supply the Philippines with another 145,000 metric tons of rice at the same price of $173.10 per ton, half of the total amount will again be subjected to counter-trade arrangements, giving the country another opportunity to export its farm and industrial products.

Meralco says it can't get new loans due to Q1 losses

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE MANILA Electric Co. said it could not secure loans to fund part of its P6.9-billion capital expenditures this year due to revenue losses in the first quarter and its inability to raise its rates.

In an interview on Wednesday, company treasurer Rafael Andrada said Meralco could not tap funding especially after an unprecedented P73-million net loss from January to March.

"This is the first time we lost that much in a decade or so," Andrada said.

He said the loss was largely because of the delay in the approval of Meralco's rate hike petition and a decline in electricity consumption.

Meralco earlier reported its total sales volume for the first quarter dropped 6.3 percent from 5.34 billion kilowatt-hours in 2001 to 5 billion kwh in 2000.

Andrada said Meralco was hoping the losses would not be carried over to the end of the second quarter.

"There is guarded optimism in the business community on an upturn in the global economy that will benefit the country," he said.

Andrada said, however, an economic recovery must be coupled with a right investment environment.

"Investors would think: 'If something as simple as a justifiable rate hike by a highly regulated facility is not being addressed, how can I be assured I will make money in the Philippines?'," he said.

He also said Meralco still had to secure a waiver on its loan covenant with the Asian Development Bank.

"The World Bank has given us a waiver, but we are still in discussions with the ADB," he said.

The utility has a commitment with the two lenders to maintain a return-on-rate-base—a measure of profitability—of at least 8 percent.

Shipping group presses bid to cut South Harbor, MICT cargo fees

By Abigail L. Ho

THE COALITION for Shipping and Ports Modernization is pressing for a cut in cargo-handling fees levied at the country's international ports despite warnings that such a move may lead to labor unrest.

On Jan. 11, the Philippine Ports Authority raised fees for handling cargoes passing through the Manila International Container Terminal and South Harbor by 20 percent—10 percent for arrastre and 10 percent for stevedoring.

CSPM had asked the PPA to recall this increase. The group later conceded that an adjustment was necessary, but that it should only be by 2 percent to cover for higher labor costs, the group's spokesperson, Enrico Basilio, told the INQUIRER.

Basilio explained that the toned-down demand was in response to the PPA's concern that a rollback would cause unrest among port workers.

In a meeting with CSPM officials, PPA general manager Alfonso Cusi cited "potential labor problems" as the reason why the government could not order a rollback.

Basilio said a study conducted by his group concluded that trimming cargo-handling rates would have little effect on labor.

Port workers are protected by collective bargaining agreements that assure them of fixed compensation and benefits regardless of a cargo-handling firm's income, he said.

He added that an increase in cargo-handling rates did not mean an increase in workers compensation.

Labor costs accounted for only 10 percent of a cargo-handling operator's total operating expenses, he said.

The CSPM had also asserted that the rate increase that the PPA approved lacked a firm basis as "cargo-handling operators do not submit their financial statements to the PPA, which prevents the authority from evaluating their operations."

"(The PPA) actually has a conflict of interest here. It gets a certain percentage out of every rate increase that it imposes," Basilio said.

The CSPM has been asking lawmakers to approve a law amending the PPA's charter to separate the agency's regulatory and development functions.

"If the PPA is to be put in charge of developing the country's ports, it should be rid of its regulatory functions to ensure that there would be no conflict of interest," Basilio said.

Belle blames weak mart for ₱2.8-B loss

PROPERTY and gaming firm Belle Corp. said Friday it recorded a net loss of P2.79 billion last year, as real estate values took a beating in the year and debt servicing costs mounted.

Belle, developer of the mountain resort Tagaytay Highlands south of Manila, noted, however, that the figure was 8.2-percent less than its P3.04-billion net loss in 2000.

"It was another difficult year for Belle due mainly to slow economic conditions and continued losses from investees' (subsidiary) operations," the company said in a report to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

"Belle is reporting a consolidated net loss of P2.79 billion arising predominantly from interest expenses of P804.2 million and P1.53 billion in equitized losses attributable to its investee companies."

The firm said its property development operations centered on the Tagaytay area realized an 83-percent drop in earnings before interest, taxes, and depreciation in 2001 at P74 million from P424.3 million last year.

It also recorded an operating loss from property development of P74.5 million compared with an operating income of P255.1 million last year.

"The drop in profitability of Belle's property development operations was mainly due to lower revenues attributable to continued uncertainty in the economy and slower activity in property sector in 2001," the company said in the report.

Belle earlier said it expected to post profits for 2002 following the sale of a 53-percent stake in property unit Highlands Prime Leisure Inc. to a group headed by shopping mall magnate Henry Sy, who heads the SM group of companies.

Belle last month sold its stake to the group for P2.5 billion and said it would use the money to pare down debts estimated at around P6 billion. *Reuters*

Quedancor to open new loan window

Quedancor Rural Credit and Guarantee Corp. is set to open new rediscounting windows with Allied Banking Corp. and Manila Banking Corp. for the agriculture and fishery sectors.

"We are finalizing a P100-million credit rediscounting window with Allied Bank and P50 million with Manila Bank," Quedancor president and chief executive Nelson Buenaflor yesterday told the INQUIRER.

Quedancor earlier concluded a deal with Land Bank of the Philippines to open an P800-million rediscounting window.

These rediscounting facilities will allow Quedancor to swap debt papers so it can acquire new credit lines that will again be available for re-lending to the agriculture and fishery sectors.

Capwire asks instructions on debt fix

CASH-STRAPPED Capitol Wireless Inc. has asked a Makati court for instructions on how it can comply with the original restructure terms for its almost P1 billion in debts when certain components for compliance are unavailable.

In an interview on Thursday, Capwire chief finance officer Joel Aguilar said the company could not do as the court compelled it to do as its agent bank, mortgage trust indenture agent and debt service trustee earlier backed out.

"We filed on April 16 a manifestation of compliance with motions for clarification and modification. We asked the judge how we could move forward," he said. "We have no agent bank, no debt service trustee and no mortgage trust indenture agent. They backed out so there's no way for us to comply."

US data fails to quell economic recovery fears

WASHINGTON—The US economy is chugging into recovery but weak spots in data released on Thursday showed the road may be patchy, reinforcing expectations that the Federal Reserve will not rush to raise interest rates.

Factory orders rose more than expected in March but spending on goods like machinery and computer equipment—a barometer of business investment that is seen as crucial for the recovery—fell.

And a separate report showed the unemployed are having trouble finding work even though the number of Americans lining up to claim jobless benefits dropped last week.

"The economy is expanding but we are simply growing at a slower rate," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Wells Fargo in Minneapolis. "We cannot really expect the economy to be growing as rapidly as it did in the first quarter."

The economy rocketed along in the first three months of this year. The government said last week that gross domestic product, the broadest economic gauge, grew at a 5.8-percent annual pace, its fastest clip in more than two years.

Nevertheless, some of the recent data have raised questions about the speed of the recovery going forward.

The Commerce Department said on Thursday that new orders at US factories rose 0.4 percent, beating economist expectations of a 0.1-percent rise. Non-durable goods led the way with a 1.6-percent increase.

Stocks, under pressure in recent weeks on fears that a slower recovery will eat into corporate profits, initially took heart from the news before giving up gains and turning negative. The Dow Jones industrial average was down just over 13 points while the Nasdaq lost about 28 points, shaken by profit warnings from software companies.

But within the factories report, demand for machinery tumbled 1.2 percent while orders for computer products fell 1.9 percent in a further sign that businesses remain skeptical about the recovery.

"Businesses are very careful about ordering equipment," said Sohn. "They are not sure that economic growth has hit the bottom."

Fed Chair Alan Greenspan said last week that he saw early signs of a turnaround in business investment but warned it was unlikely to be a rapid revival.

The factory orders data came a day after another report on manufacturing which signaled the pace of economic growth might have eased. A drop in new orders pushed down the Institute of Supply Management's monthly manufacturing index to 53.9 in April from 55.6 in March.

A separate report from the Labor Department on Thursday said first-time jobless claims—a guide to the job market and the pace of layoffs—fell 10,000 to 418,000 last week from 428,000 the prior week, but stayed well above the Wall Street forecast for 407,000.

The figure extended its run over the key 400,000 level to six weeks.

"The initial read suggests a bit more weakness in labor markets than one would have expected," said Paul Ferley, assistant chief economist for the Bank of Montreal. "The real test will come tomorrow when we get the payrolls number." ***Reuters***

Japan plans new economic assessment

NEW YORK—The Japanese government is considering upgrading its economic assessment in May to mark a third straight month of improvement when it releases the report mid-May, various Japanese media reported on Thursday.

Kyodo news agency quoted government sources saying the Cabinet Office's expected upgrade will be spurred by boosted exports in the info-tech field helped by a recovering US economy and upswings in domestic production.

Yomiuri Shimbun, a leading Japanese daily, also said the May report will likely echo a recent comment from Economic Minister Heizo Takenaka in Tokyo saying the "economy has come to a stage to turn for the better."

In its March report, the Cabinet Office upgraded its assessment for the economy for the first time since June 2000, saying that "signs of bottoming out can be seen in some areas."

Despite lingering gloom over domestic demand, the world's second largest economy has lately showed signs of a turnaround in exports and output, thanks to a global recovery and a weaker yen. ***Reuters***

Bypassing WTO sets 'bad precedent'—US

WASHINGTON—US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill on Thursday defended the Bush administration's decision to shield the domestic steel industry by increasing tariffs, saying nations that disagree should protest through the World Trade Organization.

"Unilateral trade actions outside the WTO dispute settlement procedures set a bad precedent for the world trading system," O'Neill said in prepared remarks to be delivered to the Japan Society in New York.

"The US spent nine months conducting and reviewing a safeguard investigation on steel, in accord with international trade rules. Any nation that has a complaint with this action should use the agreed WTO dispute resolution process to seek redress," he said.

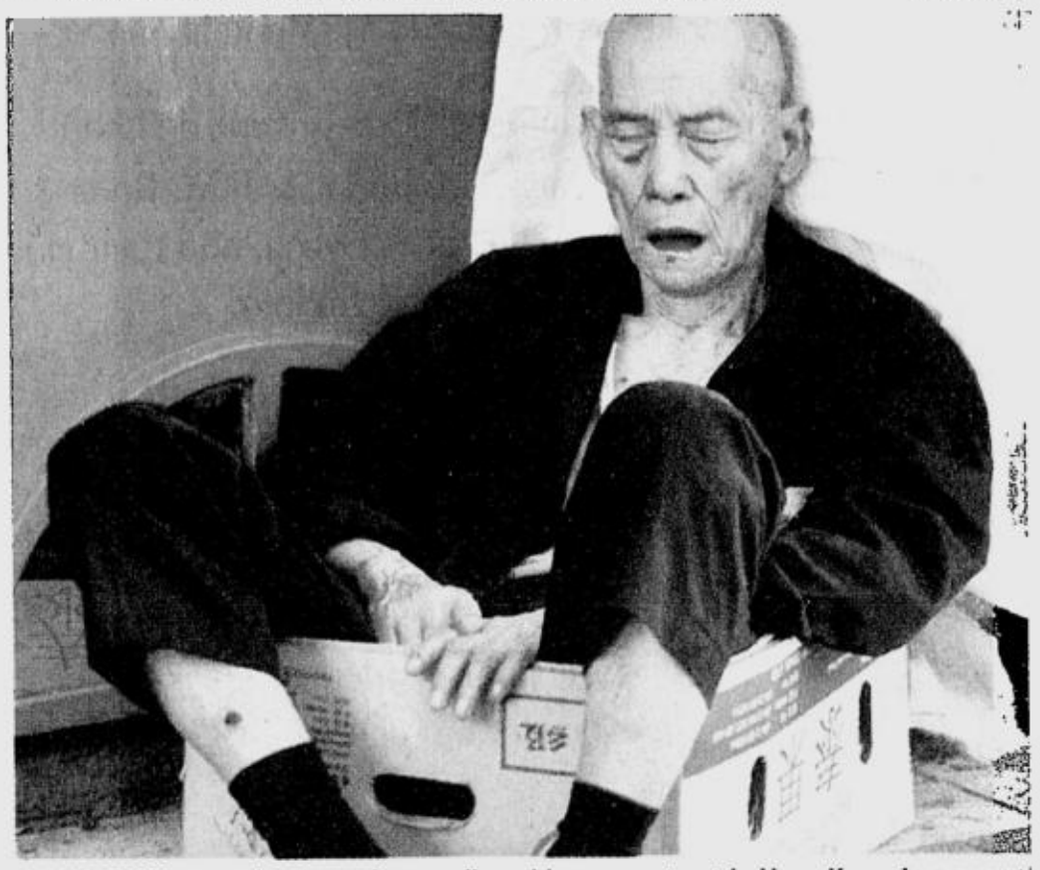
O'Neill's remarks appear aimed at Europe, which has been particularly vocal against the US decision to impose tariffs on steel imports and it has threatened retaliation.

In his remarks, O'Neill also said Japan should focus on fighting deflation, overcoming its banking sector woes and deregulating its economy to shake off a long economic slump. He said Japan should aim for growth of 3 percent annually over the next 25 years to keep up with the United States and the rapid growth in China.

If Japan achieved that growth pace, in 2027 its economy will be about 40 percent of the United States and 33 percent larger than China's, he said.

But if the past decade's trends continued, he warned, Japan risks becoming a much smaller part of the global economy.

"Japan will no longer be an engine for the world economy, it will be a boxcar," he said. ***Reuters***



AN ELDERLY man takes a nap in a cardboard box on a street in Hong Kong. In a recent survey, 85 percent of the 2,040 respondents said they had "no idea" what they could do to help the territory out of its economic doldrums with half of them worried about the future. AFP

Singapore says Asean slow on trade links

SINGAPORE—Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong voiced impatience over the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) for being slow in building trade links outside of the regional bloc.

Goh, whose country has been spearheading free trade agreements (FTAs) with countries outside the region, said Asean was spending too much time looking inward rather than forging ties with other regional economic groupings.

"We would like Asean to move faster," Goh said in remarks published in the Straits Times.

"I'm impatient because I believe Asean is taking a lot of time just looking at Asean, whereas it should be looking outside Asean," he said, speaking in an interview with the editors of 11 major Asian newspapers who held a meeting here earlier this week.

Goh pointed out that the European Union was expanding membership to cover central and eastern European countries, while the North American Free Trade Agreement was expanding its economic ties with Latin America.

"If Asia is somehow not organized, our trade gets depleted because of our tariffs, and we are not cooperating, then we're going to suffer," he said.

"So Asean, despite bilateral disagreements between countries in better times, understands the need to move forward."

Singapore has forged FTAs with New Zealand and Japan and is negotiating a similar agreement with the United States. It also wants FTAs with Canada, Mexico, Australia and the European Union, among others. ***AFP***

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LETICIA L. MONTELIBANO

June 7, 1916 - May 2, 2002

Her husband, Alfredo M. Montelibano Sr.†;

her stepchildren, Ton† & Pepe de Leon,
Titing & Tom Zimmerman, Junior & Jhay, Rudy & Miriam,
Bobby & Cristina, Oscar & Sylvia, and their children
and grandchildren;

her brothers and sisters Caridad Locsin†, Ricardo†,
Corazon Arcenas†, Salvacion Jison†, Rafael†, Teresit Yvanoivich†,
Luisa Veloso, Nieves Blardony†, Roberto†, Enrique, Mario†,
Sergio, Mike† & George

request the pious readers to say a prayer
for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Adoration Chapel,
Balay Kalinungan, University of St. La Salle, Bacolod City.

Interment will be at the Montelibano Mausoleum,
Hacienda Binitin, Murcia on Sunday, May 5, 2002
after the 2:30 p.m. Mass.

In lieu of flowers,
donations to the A. Montelibano Sr. Foundation
will be appreciated.

Salvador "Bebeng" Garcia Mercader, 72

of Houston Texas, formerly of Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental passed away last April 19, 2002 in Houston. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Consuelo "Nena" Syquia, ten years earlier.

He is survived by his children: Pancho, Malu, Rico, Chev & Rovi; in-laws: Toti, Sarah, Mabel & Grace; grandchildren: Miguel, Nina, Ricky, Fernando, Consuelo, Ivan & RV.

A mass will be celebrated for "Bebeng" at Mary the Queen Church in Greenhills, San Juan on May 5, 2002 (Sunday) at 7:15 pm.

We his family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to join us in prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

The Board of Directors of Jose S. Reyes Memorial Foundation, Inc.
announces with deep sorrow the passing away of our beloved Chair

TERESITA REYES DE LEON

of Bulusan, Sorsogon at the age of 68 on 30 April 2002, after receiving the Sacrament of Confession and Holy Communion.

Her bereaved husband **Isidoro S.J. de Leon**; sister **Nenette Reyes Manda**; son **Michael Alain Reyes de Leon**; father **Dr. Jose S. Reyes** (†); mother **Corazon Ll. del Rosario Reyes** (†); father-in-law **Berting de Leon**; brothers-in-law **Rudy, Boy,** and **Auching**; sisters-in-law **Perly, Zeny** and **Lita**; cousins, nephews and nieces, other relatives and friends, request your prayers for her eternal repose.

Her remains lie in state at Tupas Street (near Municipal Hall) - Morong, Rizal.

Interment will be on Tuesday, May 7, 2002 at Loyola Memorial Guadalupe (for the cremation), after the 10:00 a.m. Mass to be held at St. Jerome Parish, Morong, Rizal.

Please omit flowers. Donations to the Jose S. Reyes Memorial Foundation Scholarship Fund will be much appreciated.

We, the family of the late

Atty. OSCAR R. MAGSARILI

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on April 19, 2002

wish to express our deepest gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Mass and prayers and who in countless ways condoled and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

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I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

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Adoracion A. Estavillo

February 22, 1928 - April 27, 2002
of Pinili, Ilocos Norte

Peacefully joined her husband Federico (†), *and our Heavenly Father.*

She is survived by her loving children and in-laws **Edna, Shirley** and **Ernie, Farley** and **Jojo, Glenn** and **Lux, Ausie** and **Vangie,** and **Randy**; and her grandchildren **Sharon, Richard** and **Joshy, Margret, Patricia, Luigi** and **D.J.** (†), **Karen, Zandro,** and **Zacko, Jenny, Alpro, Jaelene,** and **Prong, B.J., Glen Marie** (†), **Tricia Ann, Trina, Tiffany,** and **Frederick.**

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City from May 3, 2002 until May 5, 2002.

Interment will be on May 11, 2002 in Pinili, Ilocos Norte.

In Loving Memory
on the Fifth Death Anniversary of

PROF. ARISTON ESTRADA, SR.

Charter Member and Friend
of Santos Ventura Hocorma Foundation, Inc.

In the care of our Lord on May 4, 1997

Special Masses will be offered at the following churches:
Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati
St. John Bosco, Pasay Road, Makati
Sto. Niño de Paz, Greenbelt, Makati
Asian Institute of Management Chapel, Greenbelt, Makati

The Family and the Foundation
request the pious reader to pray for the
eternal repose of his soul.

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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Coke celebrates 75 years in RP

IN CELEBRATION of its 75th year in the Philippines, Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. (CCBPI) had the rare opportunity of treating out fellow birthday celebrants on the company's historic event.

It was on March 19, 1927 that the Coca-Cola Company granted an exclusive bottling and distribution franchise to the then San Miguel Brewery. In the first year of operation, 7,000 cases of Coca-Cola were sold from production at the San Miguel Brewery bottling plant at 57 Calle General Solano in Manila. Since then, the company has grown through leaps and bounds and is now one of the 10 largest bottlers in the world.

The activity kicked off at the Coca-Cola Pavilion where they were welcomed warmly by CCBPI president Genaro V. Lapez and other Coca-Cola officers and employees. In his speech, Lapez thanked the customers and consumers for their continued and unwavering support to the company. In return, the company has generated employment to many Filipinos, provided education to children in far-flung areas of the country through the Coca-Cola Foundation, and generated business opportunities for big and small entrepreneurs.

Lapez then handed out Coca-Cola commemorative bottles to the birthday celebrants, as a symbol of strength in overcoming the challenges of the past 75 years. Then they proceeded to opening the Coca-Cola 75th Anniversary Exhibit, which was formally opened by Lapez, Santa Rosa Mayor Leon Arcillas, and Pulong barangay captain Connie Dones. As an added surprise, the celebrants were then presented with a giant birthday cake in honor of their 75th year.

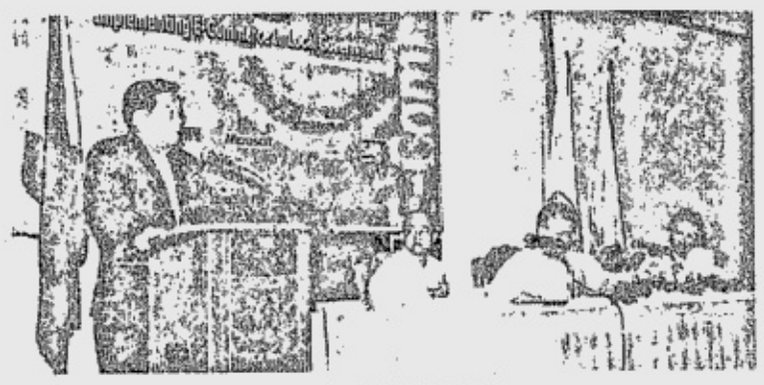
"The municipality of Santa Rosa, as well as the province of Laguna, highly commends Coca-Cola for all its support these past years. Its contributions to maintaining and preserving the environment here through its Save Silang-Santa Rosa River (S3R2) project and San Cristobal River Enhancement Defenders (Sacred) is a clear indication of how Coca-Cola cares for its surroundings and prides itself as a good corporate citizen," said Arcillas.

The last stop of the celebration was at the lagoon where the celebrants had their lunch coupled with some fun games. Before departing, they received their birthday gifts, which they highly appreciated.

"We are very grateful to Coca-Cola for giving us such a memorable 'tribute'. At this stage in our lives, never have we thought that there are still companies like Coca-Cola who would go out of their way to give us this special treat. No wonder Coca-Cola has been adored and patronized by Filipinos," said Aten Tiongco, one of the birthday celebrants.

DWHS '77 BENEFIT GOLF

As part of the 2002 homecoming activities of the Divine Word College of Legaspi City, formerly known as Liceo de Albay, the high school class of 1977 recently staged a fund-raising golf tournament at the Tat Filipinas Golf Club in San Pedro, Laguna. The general alumni homecoming is on May 4 at its high school grounds with the theme 'Coming Home, Helping People' with planned activities from May to December that include free training and educational courses, medical missions, art and cultural contests and scholarship programs aside from the usual fellowship affairs. Shown is DWHS host class '77 president TG Serrano (fifth from left) and tournament chair Mario Monsalve (ninth from left) with the winners of the sports event.



DAP'S E-COMMERCE WORKSHOP

The Development Academy of the Philippines held 'e-LGU: Implementing E-Commerce in Local Government' at the Century Park Hotel recently. 154 local government units were represented in the conference-workshop which was also sponsored by the Department of Trade and Industry and the National Computer Center. Shown is Secretary Joey Lina of the Department of Interior and Local Government delivering the keynote address. The conference-workshop aimed to facilitate the compliance of LGUs to the E-commerce Act.

The most prescribed Vitamin C brand

CECON, the top Vitamin C brand among doctors for the past several years, continues to be the most prescribed brand in 2001.

This is according to IMS Health, an organization issuing the sales and prescription data of the Philippines' pharmaceutical and healthcare industry. This information is documented and published in the Philippine Medical Data Index, a semestral report on medical consultations and prescriptions generated by a panel of doctors nationwide from 17 major specialties.

As in the past years, Cecon consistently ranks high in terms of prescription among doctors specializing in different fields ranging from cardiology to dermatology. The brand also enjoys wide acceptance among health-conscious individuals who take Cecon for the maintenance of optimum health, promotion of faster healing, or as a preventive against colds, flu and other common ailments.

Foil-packed to ensure freshness, Cecon comes in a convenient and chewable tablet form, which makes it easier to take anytime, anywhere, Cecon is a quality product of Abbott Laboratories, one of the country's leading pharmaceutical companies.

Cecon is classified OTC (over-the-counter) and can be bought even without prescription.

'Reach Out and Shine'

BITS Clips

"REACH OUT and Shine" is a livelihood project initiated by non-government organization Succor Association, in partnership with Kiwi, the world leader in shoe care. Intended to provide a decent means of earning a living among residents of depressed areas in the metropolis, shoeshine stands are put up within the building perimeter of the different government agencies and institutions supporting this project such as the Senate, Congress, NLRC, and the Mandaluyong City Hall. Kiwi provides not only the initial supply of shoe care products, but also complete paraphernalia of shoeshine stands, boxes and uniforms, as well as the needed training on shoe-care techniques. On Saturday, May 4, a fund-raising program will be held to help sustain this project. Everybody is invited to bring their shoes to Level 4 of Metropolis Alabang from 2 to 7 p.m., and Kiwi will provide the shine, for free. Entertainment will be provided by Carol Banawa, Jeremiah, the Kendeng Girls. The show will be hosted by Smokey Manaloto.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS

Eliseo Dizon Jr., president and chief executive officer of Philam Plans Inc., a leading pre-need company in the Philippines, recently received an award from the Lyceum of the Philippines, Manila. Dizon was awarded as one of the Outstanding Alumni of Lyceum during its 50th anniversary celebrations held at the school's quadrangle. The affair was graced by no less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Supreme Court Justice Hilario Davide, Jr. Shown is Dizon (left) receiving the award from Lyceum's board chair Dr. Sotero H. Laurel.

Product FILES

French frolic at Delifrance

THE HEAT of summer is everywhere and Delifrance is cooling it down with its French Frolic Summer Celebration. You need not go to the beach and have the time of your life, Delifrance is offering the same excitement and fun with the much-awaited Fruit Frappe Escapade.

The Fruit Frappe Escapade is a raffle promo that will give you a chance to enjoy vacation packages from Pearl Pacific World of Leisure in Boracay and free airfare from Air Philippines. All you have to do is try the new Delifrance Fruit Frappes, the latest cold drink in town made of real fruits blended with shaved ice, syrup and whipped cream. You can choose among five delicious flavors, namely Strawberry Chill, Apple Frost, Honeydew Bliss, Cool Watermelon and Mango Frenzy. Every purchase of any of the Fruit Frappes entitles you to one raffle coupon, fill it up and drop it at any drop boxes available at all Delifrance Cafes.

Prizes at stake are five winners of a vacation package (three days and two nights accommodation for two) at Pearl Pacific World of Leisure in Boracay with free round trip airfare from Manila to Kalibo via Air Philippines. 18 winners will also get free vacation packages (three days and two nights accommodation for two), also courtesy of Pearl Pacific World of Leisure in Boracay.

The promo is good from April 2 to May 15 only.

Bands at BFRV dance party

THE BFRV'S Women's Sports Club has recently organized its group and is now holding the first-ever street party in BF Resort Village. From its humble beginnings in the late '90s, this troupe of ballroom-dancing young wives has steadily grown in numbers and in scope of activities. It recently obtained the nod of Rep. Cynthia Villar to build a small gym for the club towards the end of this year. It has been working hard for the first fund-raising project dubbed "Danz Craze". In coordination with the BFRV Homeowners' Association, the group will also host some events for the BFRVHAI summer sportsfest. It will soon launch a program for the senior citizens in BFRV. The proceeds of the "Danz Craze" will fund the club's sports development programs and the purchase of the gym equipment. The street party features three of the country's hottest bands—Barbie's Cradle, Imago, and Battery. Show starts at 7 p.m. on May 4 at the BFRV covered court. Call Lia Osorio at 874-1847 or Shirley Espineli at 871-2261.

Embassy Pointe Tower tops off

EMBASSY Pointe Tower, the 42-story office-residential condominium rising along Roxas Boulevard in Manila (near the US Embassy) will have its topping off ceremony on May 4 at 4 p.m. To be held at the deck level of the project, the topping off ceremony will mark the completion of the structural aspect of the latest grand architectural and engineering masterpiece from the joint venture between Pearl of the Orient Realty and Development Corp. and Philippine Estates Corp. Embassy Pointe Tower will soon offer the best in office and residential condominium living. The marketing and sales of Embassy Pointe Tower is being handled by ReHaus Inc. Inquiries may be made at 244-5423, 244-5424 or 244-5427, or visit www.rehausproperty.com.

TNCHS batch '87 reunion

ALL GRADUATES of Class 1987 of Tanza National Comprehensive High School are invited to attend its 15th year batch reunion on May 5, Sunday, at the TNCHS Social Hall. Asembly starts at 8 a.m. For details, call Enrique "Henry" Abad at (046)437-1671 or at 0916-3422705.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS

Eliseo Dizon Jr., president and chief executive officer of Philam Plans Inc., a leading pre-need company in the Philippines, recently received an award from the Lyceum of the Philippines, Manila. Dizon was awarded as one of the Outstanding Alumni of Lyceum during its 50th anniversary celebrations held at the school's quadrangle. The affair was graced by no less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Supreme Court Justice Hilario Davide, Jr. Shown is Dizon (left) receiving the award from Lyceum's board chair Dr. Sotero H. Laurel.

GREENWICH HONORS ITS 'SUKI'

During the recent Greenwich Annual Sales Assembly, one of the highlights was the surprise entry of the Greenwich outlet 'sukis' (regular customers) who were given recognition by no less than the company's top officials: Tony Caktiong (extreme left, seated) and Raffy de la Rosa (extreme right, seated). Greenwich 'sukis' were (seated, from left) Vicente Sucion, Jane Barlongay, Yasmin Gruet, director for operations and professor Tony Gonzales. Behind them are Greenwich executives.GREENWICH HONORS ITS 'SUKI'

Directing seminar at Mowelfund

THE MOWELFUND Film Institute is inviting all aspiring film artists who have demonstrable creative abilities to join this summer's Basic Directing Seminar Series. Internationally acclaimed filmmaker, scholar and film educator Nick Deocampo will be conducting this year's Directing Lecture Series, which will be held at the Mowelfund Film Institute starting May 6. Applications are ongoing at the Mowelfund Film Institute, 66 Rosario Drive corner Ilang-Ilang Street, Cubao, Quezon City. For further inquiries, call 727-1915, 727-1961, and 723-4058.

Hospitality industry readies RP's biggest int'l trade show

FOR THE 10th consecutive year, the hotel and restaurant industry and its allied sectors are staging what is seen to be the Philippines' biggest international trade show on equipment, supplies, services, and food and beverage products.

Dubbed "Hotelex 2002," this prestigious trade exhibit will be staged at the World Trade Center Metro Manila from May 30 to June 1, with the support of the Hotel & Restaurant Association of the Philippines, Food Caterers Association of the Philippines, Hotel & Restaurant Chefs Association of the Philippines, Hotel & Restaurant Purchasing Managers Association of the Philippines, International Wines & Spirits Association, Philippine Federation of Bakers Associations, Philippine Franchise Association, and the Philippine Retailers Association.

Hotelex 2002 will showcase the latest collection of products and services in the local and international market, thus updating industry players on the most advanced technologies in their respective fields.

These technologies will be highlighted in individual company display booths and international pavilions featuring the latest from participating countries.

Nonetheless, Hotelex 2002 will also showcase locally produced food and beverage products from small and medium enterprises under the so-called "Proudly Filipino" outreach program.

Based on its attendance in the past 9 years, 41.1 percent of Hotelex visitors come from the top management of reputable firms, 26.05 percent from middle management, 18.03 percent from staff, and 13.92 percent from various sectors of society.

Such visitor profile indicates that the event's ever-growing number of visitors largely comprises the global industry's decision-makers.

"Hotelex 2002 will thus enable exhibitors to meet top customers, launch new products, generate huge sales, link up with fellow suppliers, reinforce their corporate presence, and come face to face with their target market," said Lynn Romero, president of Worldexco, the project proponent.

Inquiries or reservations can be made at Worldexco (834-8796, 834-7726, fax 834-0608, e-mail wdx@info.com.ph, and www.worldexco.com).

The event also includes seminars on safe food handling, franchising, wine appreciation, theme parties, and entrepreneurship.

MEGATRADE HALL OFFICIAL VENUE

Shopping Center Management Corp. (Megatrade Hall) recently signed an agreement with The Next Step Events Planner as the official venue for this year's Eskwela Expo 2002, the 1st Trade and Consumer Expo on School Supplies, Apparel and Accessories to be held from May 17 to 19 at the SM Megatrade Hall 3, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Shown is Annaliza B. Laxamana, managing director of The Next Step Events Planner, event organizer, and Dexter Deyto, assistant vice president of Megatrade Hall.

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang • Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

MOTHERS WHO DON'T BREASTFEED

Infants deprived of nutrition, intelligence

By Tessa R. Salazar

BREAST MILK acts not just as food for the infant but also as the living fluid containing the white blood cells that protect the infant from infection during the period the baby's immune system is not fully developed.

Breast milk is a "living commodity" that acts as an extension of the baby's life as soon as the infant is taken away from the mother's womb. Depriving the baby of breast milk is like giving up the infant's defenses against illnesses, malnutrition and infection. It is also like giving up the chance for mother and infant to bond.

The first six months after birth is the fastest rate of development for the infant's brain. The baby's intelligence would depend on the kind of milk the mother feeds him or her in this stage. If you feed human breast milk during the first six months, your infant acquires the level of intelligence of a human being, says breast milk expert Dr. Lester Saguiguit-Lora of the Department of Health's (DoH) maternal and child health care.

About 10 percent of women with surviving children 0 to 35 months of age never breastfed. This was revealed in the recently released 2001 Maternal and Child Health survey of the National Statistics Office.

Insufficiency of breast milk is the most frequently cited reason by urban and rural mothers for never initiating or for stopping breastfeeding. The other reasons are nipple problems; mothers were working; the infant refused to drink breast milk; the mother or the child was ill or weak; the mother became pregnant again; or that the mother started using contraceptives.

Insufficient breast milk

There is no such thing as insufficiency of breast milk, however. Lora, who herself breastfed and raised three children, says the breast of a mother, whether big or small, has the capacity to lactate. Every mother is capable of producing milk.

There are standard 15 to 20 lobes in the breast. Lobes look like a bunch of grapes, and these act as milk glands. A mother with small breasts may have 15 lobes, but she is still equally capable of producing milk as those with bigger breasts. One myth, says Lora, is that bigger breasts mean more milk.

One of the factors for difficulty in lactating could be wrong positioning. Improper positioning results to no stimulation. Lora stressed that the mouth of the baby should reach as far as the areola, since sucking the areola stimulates the nerve endings known as the lactiferous sinus. Lactiferous sinus serves as the "waiting area" where breast milk is deposited prior to sucking.

But not every mother knows that breast milk could be produced by the infant's sucking act,

ILLUSTRATION BY JED ESTRADA

says Dr. Edwin Bolastig, DOH's executive assistant.

Lactation unit in the office

Recent statistics also showed that mothers had stopped breastfeeding because they had to go back to work.

Breast milk experts say that a mother's mental status and the psychological condition affect her ability to secrete milk. Stress is another factor that could hinder breast milk production, but this should not stop her from giving what is due her child. A lactation unit should be established in every office, says Lora.

It should be a room with a refrigerator with containers and isolated from office stress, with piped-in music where the mother can express her milk privately. This room should allow the mother to focus her love for her child so that her brain will command her breast to secrete milk and let the milk be stored. In contrast, a mother would not be capable of lactating when she is angry, tired and anxious.

About the decline in the duration of breastfeeding periods among urban working mothers, Labor Assistant Secretary Ma. Teresa Soriano says this implicitly suggested the need to further advocate for child-friendly policies in the workplace such as time for lactating mothers to express their milk, and appropriate facilities for milk storage and day-care activities.

Nipple problems

One common pathological condition is the engorgement of the breast. Allowing the breast milk to stagnate could result to "mother's milk fever." The only treatment for that is expressing it. No antibiotic can treat that, according to Lora.

If the engorgement progresses, it would create more pathological abnormal conditions within the breast.

Then the ducts would become inflamed, and breast abscess could take place. A sore nipple, on the other hand, is a result of improper positioning.

Breastfeeding periods

The baby should have at least eight breastfeeding periods within the day, says Lora. The baby should be breastfed as often as he or she wants. The mother should initiate even if the baby is sleeping because the baby could not always wake up and signal he or she is hungry.

The mother who breastfeeds the baby day and night also prevents herself from ovulating. Proper spacing of children, then, is achieved, resulting to a better quality of life for the mother and her children, stresses Lora.

A mother's nutrition is important. The quantity of breast milk diminishes when a mother is malnourished.

The quality of the milk, however, is the same whether a mother is malnourished or not, says Lora. Though six months is the required breastfeeding period, a mother can breastfeed for up to two years provided that she is nutritionally capable.

Lora suggests that a nursing mother should take *malunggay* with soup. *Malunggay* has an element called galactogog, which increases the secretion of breast milk. Putting seashells in also increases the amount of milk secreted, she says.

The Department of Health has been promoting exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months to reduce the high incidence of infant mortality in the country.

Lora says the country has one of the most number of mother-baby friendly hospitals in the world, next to China.

Mother-baby friendly hospitals compel every mother to breastfeed her baby. The mother and her baby wouldn't be discharged from a mother-baby friendly hospital if the mother is not willing to breastfeed her child.

Despite all the efforts, however, many infants are still being deprived of their mother's breast milk.

Many nursing mothers in the country do not initiate breastfeeding and find many reasons not to do so.

Perfect numbers

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

WAYNE Lopez [faunbo@yahoo.com] asks about interesting numbers.

I was fascinated by your previous article on anagrams and palindromes. Up to now I can still remember lines such as "too hot too hoot, desserts I stressed, end is a car spin" and the like.

I came across another fascinating article from an American farmers journal, which featured perfect numbers: 6, 28, 496, 8128 and 33,550,336 are just the first five of them. Perfect numbers are those whose factors when added together gives a total less than the number itself, and also the sum of the cube of its integers will be equal to the number. Can you enlighten me on the significance of such numbers?

I am glad you enjoyed the anagrams and palindromes. It is indeed fun to play around with words. You are right—perfect numbers are not only appreciated by number theorists, but anyone who loves to play around with numbers as well.

Let us first clarify what a perfect number is.

It is a number whose positive divisors (except for itself) sum to itself. For example, 6 is perfect (1+2+3=6), and in fact 6 is the smallest perfect number. The next two perfect numbers are 28 (1+2+4+7+14=28) and 496 (1 + 2 + 4 + 8 + 16 + 31 + 62+124+248 = 496).

Perfect numbers have intriguing properties. According to the University of Connecticut mathematics site, if 2^p-1 is prime, then $2^{p-1}(2^p-1)$ is even and perfect, and conversely, all even perfect numbers have this form. Primes of the form 2^p-1 are called *Mersenne primes*, so we can say that there are just as many even perfect numbers as Mersenne primes. Now most mathematicians believe that Mersenne primes are infinite—thus, if true, there will also be an infinity of even perfect numbers. Also, there are just as many even perfect numbers known as Mersenne primes.

One open problem (which means there is no rigorous proof for this yet, but I am sure many number theorists are hard at work on it) is that there are no odd perfect numbers. But what has been proven is that any odd perfect number must exceed 10^{300}, and must be divisible by a prime power exceeding 10^{20}.

Right now 39 perfect numbers have been discovered. The largest one is $2^{13466916}$ and contains more than 4 million digits! Needless to say, the bigger ones were discovered with the aid of computers.

Okay, so perfect numbers are fascinating and beautiful (in an austere-cum-playful mathematical sense). What are they used for?

Frankly, most of their properties still belong to theoretical aspects of number theory, but some are increasingly being employed in applied fields such as cryptography (security systems, cracking codes, etc.). But I have no doubt that before long, people will find more ways of using perfect numbers since history has shown that theoretical math has had an uncanny impact on "real life." (For instance, non-Euclidean geometry was an oddity—albeit an interesting one—until Einstein decided to employ it for his general theory of relativity.)

The history of perfect numbers is also exciting. Mathematicians through the centuries have worked on them—from Pythagoras and Euclid to Fermat and Sylvester. For a detailed history, go to http://www-groups.dcs.st-and.ac.uk/~history/HistTopics/Perfect_numbers.html.

Since you already know about perfect numbers, I am sure you will also be delighted by the so-called amicable and sociable numbers. I will be waiting for your reactions to these.

* * *

Lilian Chan [marcchan@pacific.net.ph] is a loving parent who tutors her son. She has the following query: **Is it correct to use commas when writing number words, just like in writing Arabic numbers? 2,230,301: two million, two hundred thirty thousand, three hundred one. The teacher of my son in third grade is teaching the class to use a comma, but previous teachers did not. I just want to know if this is correct.**

Using commas are fine. In fact, commas help separate unwieldy phrases into more understandable chunks, which hopefully will enhance understanding. (However, it is also fine to use no commas at all.) I commend you for taking the time and effort to make sure your son understands math.

The case of the fatal 'balloon'

MEDICAL FILES

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

IT was supposed to be an ordinary Monday for Noel, a still blessedly single 45-year-old computer engineer working in a multinational software company. After a hearty breakfast that he cooked for himself, Noel set off to work. However, things started to get awfully different when after rushing a report urgently needed that morning, Noel suddenly experienced what seemed then was just one of those benign headaches. Tension headache, he thought as he popped in an analgesic.

However, the pain persisted and even got worse toward lunchtime. He excused himself from their project update meeting in the afternoon and decided to call it an early day.

Returning to his pad, Noel smoked a cigarette before he settled down on his favorite couch and watched TV. However, after a few minutes, he could not bear to watch any more because the glare bothered his eyes and his head pounded like a million ants were inside his head trying to get out. He thought this was just some migraine attack although he never had one before. He tried to sleep but the pounding in his head was so severe that he felt like it would explode. He started to see double and he vomited twice.

Unable to bear the pain, he asked his friend next door to take him to the hospital. At the ER, Noel was noted to be still conscious, but somewhat confused, apparently dizzy and nauseous. Squinting, weakness in some eye movements and facial pain were also noted suggesting compression of some nerves inside the head. The neck was still not stiff or rigid which the doctor said was a good sign.

ILLUSTRATION BY JED ESTRADA

Blood vessel abnormalities

A magnetic resonance imaging or MRI of the head was immediately requested. (This is a very sensitive sophisticated test to visualize the internal structures.) It showed bleeding in the subarachnoid space in the brain. Cerebral angiography was subsequently done and it confirmed the presence of an aneurysm of a blood vessel in Noel's brain.

Through angiography, the doctor is able to detect the exact location of blood vessel abnormalities, like aneurysm. It identifies the exact blood vessel that has bled and the detailed anatomy of the aneurysm. It is a special X-ray procedure that takes pictures of the blood vessels in the brain. A catheter or a small and flexible tube is inserted into an artery in the groin. When the catheter reaches the site under investigation, an X-ray dye is injected through the catheter. A special X-ray television screen clearly outlines the blood vessels and enables the doctor to see any irregularities or blockages.

Fatal balloon

Aneurysm is a bulge or balloon that forms in the wall of a blood vessel. It is most commonly a result of an accumulation of fatty deposits on the vessel wall, but may also be related to heredity, trauma or other diseases that weaken the vessel wall. They may affect the medium-sized and big arteries throughout the body. In Noel's case, he had an aneurysm in his brain artery.

Aneurysm is one common cause of sudden death since it is often without symptoms until the blood vessel has already expanded so much that it is already causing too much pressure in the nerves and other vital parts of the brain. Worse yet, it may literally rupture anytime.

It was unfortunate for Noel to be faced with this situation, but he was actually one of those lucky ones to be alive after an aneurysmal hemorrhage. One-third die on the first episode with another 15 percent succumb a few weeks later. After six months, rebleeding occurs at a rate of 3 percent yearly.

The general outlook for a brain aneurysm is usually worse compared to other causes such as an arteriovenous malformation (AV-mal). Prognosis is best when cerebral angiogram does not detect any lesion, suggesting that the bleeding source is small and has likely sealed itself.

Patients with aneurysm should be fully rested. A mild tranquilizer may be needed for restlessness, but this may interfere when monitoring the patient's sensorium or level of consciousness. Constipation induces straining and should be prevented with stool softeners or laxatives. Blood thinners including aspirin are contraindicated.

Further brain damage due to vasospasm of the blood vessels, narrowing its lumen and impairing the circulation may develop. This can be relieved with the use of some drugs called calcium channel blockers for about three weeks. Excessive lowering of the blood pressure however has to be prevented.

Prevalence

The prevalence of aneurysm is most often underestimated but the fact is that almost as many people die from aneurysms as from other diseases that get tremendous amount of public attention and awareness, like AIDS and breast cancer.

Another reason for this underestimation is the difficulty to obtain accurate figures of death due to aneurysm, since sudden collapse and death in an elderly patient, who may be known to suffer from heart disease, may well be attributed to a heart attack if an aneurysm has not previously been diagnosed and postmortem examination is not performed. Even official statistics, based on doctors' entries on death certificates, are likely to be an underestimate of the true incidence of aneurysm rupture.

Preferred treatment

For aneurysm, the general goal of treatment is to avoid rebleeding. This is usually achieved with surgery, the goal of which is to trap and obliterate the aneurysm. It is the preferred method of treatment because it is more effective with a relatively good chance of survival. Through surgery, the aneurysm, particularly across the junction between the healthy portion of the blood vessel and the weakened aneurysm, is clipped.

Occasionally, brain surgeons try other procedures such as ligating the proximal portion of the carotid artery from where the aneurysm emanates, covering the aneurysmal "balloon" with plastic, gauze or muscle.

In some cases however, clipping or doing the other conventional procedures would be very complicated because of the size and location of the aneurysm. An alternative procedure recommended in some modern centers is to have the aneurysm coiled and occluded through endovascular surgery and embolization.

Endovascular surgery is a procedure wherein a small tube or catheter is navigated into the aneurysm from the blood vessel in the groin under X-ray guidance. Doctors can then deliver tiny platinum coils to the aneurysm. The coils will be released at the trouble site where they will fill the bulge and trigger formation of a stable blood clot, which will seal off the aneurysm. When successful, this prevents the artery from rupturing. The coil procedure is usually reserved for people with large aneurysms and for whom surgery poses high risk.

Noel's brain surgery to clip his aneurysm was very successful and he attributed this to the family's fervent prayers and the expertise of his surgeon. Barely a week after the surgery, Noel was allowed to go home, still feeling physically weak but cheerful and witty as ever.

Now, Noel is back at his work, hardly any sign of the deadly "balloon" that almost killed him. He realizes though that life is actually like a balloon. It can fly high and reach the sky in perfect abandon. But it can also burst anytime, with only a small piece of rubber to serve as a reminder of the graceful thing it used to be.

Top lawmakers support cut in PPA

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said yesterday that the chairs of the Senate and House energy committees were willing to endorse a bill reducing the controversial purchased power adjustment charge.

In a news statement, Perez said Sen. Renato Cayetano and Rep. Alipio Cirilo Badelles agreed to help push a proposed law trimming the PPA, cited as the main reason for the high cost of electricity in the country.

In her Labor Day address, President Macapagal-Arroyo tossed to Congress, "as a priority," a law reducing the PPA.

Ms Macapagal ordered Perez to work with Congress to pass a bill reducing the PPA through a refinancing scheme.

She also urged the Energy Regulatory Commission to audit the PPA collections of the Manila Electric Co.

The PPA accounts for the cost of electricity that distributors buy from companies that generate electricity, including the National Power Corp. It comprises about half of consumers' monthly electric bills.

"When implemented, the proposed bill would provide immediate relief to electricity consumers of as much as 80 centavos per kilowatt-hour," Perez said.

He said the public would enjoy such a financial relief while awaiting the benefits of an ongoing restructuring in the power industry and future savings from successful renegotiations of Napocor's contracts with independent power producers.

The Electric Power Industry Reform Act mandates the collection of a universal levy to cover for stranded—or left-over—costs of Napocor's contracts with independent power producers.

Data from the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. showed that stranded contract costs this year amounted to $650 million, which translated to a universal charge of about 85 centavos per kwh.

Psalm has proposed a collection of only 40 centavos, while the rest could be amortized through a refinancing loan.

Psalm president Edgardo del Fonso said last week that the plan was to borrow $1.5 billion for the amortization scheme.

On the other hand, cause-oriented groups decried as deceptive a government plan to "levelize" the universal charge to 40 centavos per kwh.

Lidy Nacpil, secretary general of the Freedom from Debt Coalition, said on Wednesday that the government's promise to keep the levy at 40 centavos was "obviously illusory."

"The people will still pay for the cost of reduction through taxes since the government would absorb the difference," Nacpil said in a statement.

Nacpil added that the IPP contracts were also responsible for the purchased power adjustment that, she said, represented electricity that consumers did not even use.

FEDERATION of Philippine Industries chair Meneleo Carlos (5th from left) and former Sen. Wigberto Tañada (4th from left) join hands with other FTA members to signify unity against unfair trade practices.

World Bank erred in report, SEC insists

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission said yesterday that it was working hard on reforms to improve the country's accounting and auditing standards, taking exception to a World Bank report that said it was not doing anything.

In a news statement, SEC Associate Commissioner Jesus Martinez disclosed that the initial adoption of the International Accounting Standards and a primer on these new standards would be made public soon.

The commission has been actively involved in the development of better, more "air-tight" auditing standards and practices since the Securities Regulation Code of 2000 was passed into law, Martinez said.

He also said the SEC would seek to revise laws like the Professional Regulation Commission Act of 2000 and 1975 Revised Accountancy Law, although this would call for "consistent consensus building."

In a recent report, the World Bank expressed concern over the country's poor accounting and auditing practices stemming partly from lax regulation.

"While I have not seen the World Bank report, it is important to understand that even before that report came out, the SEC has been collaborating with both the accounting and auditing councils, the bodies responsible for nationally setting the standards, precisely because we want to align our local practices with the global standard at the soonest possible time," Martinez said.

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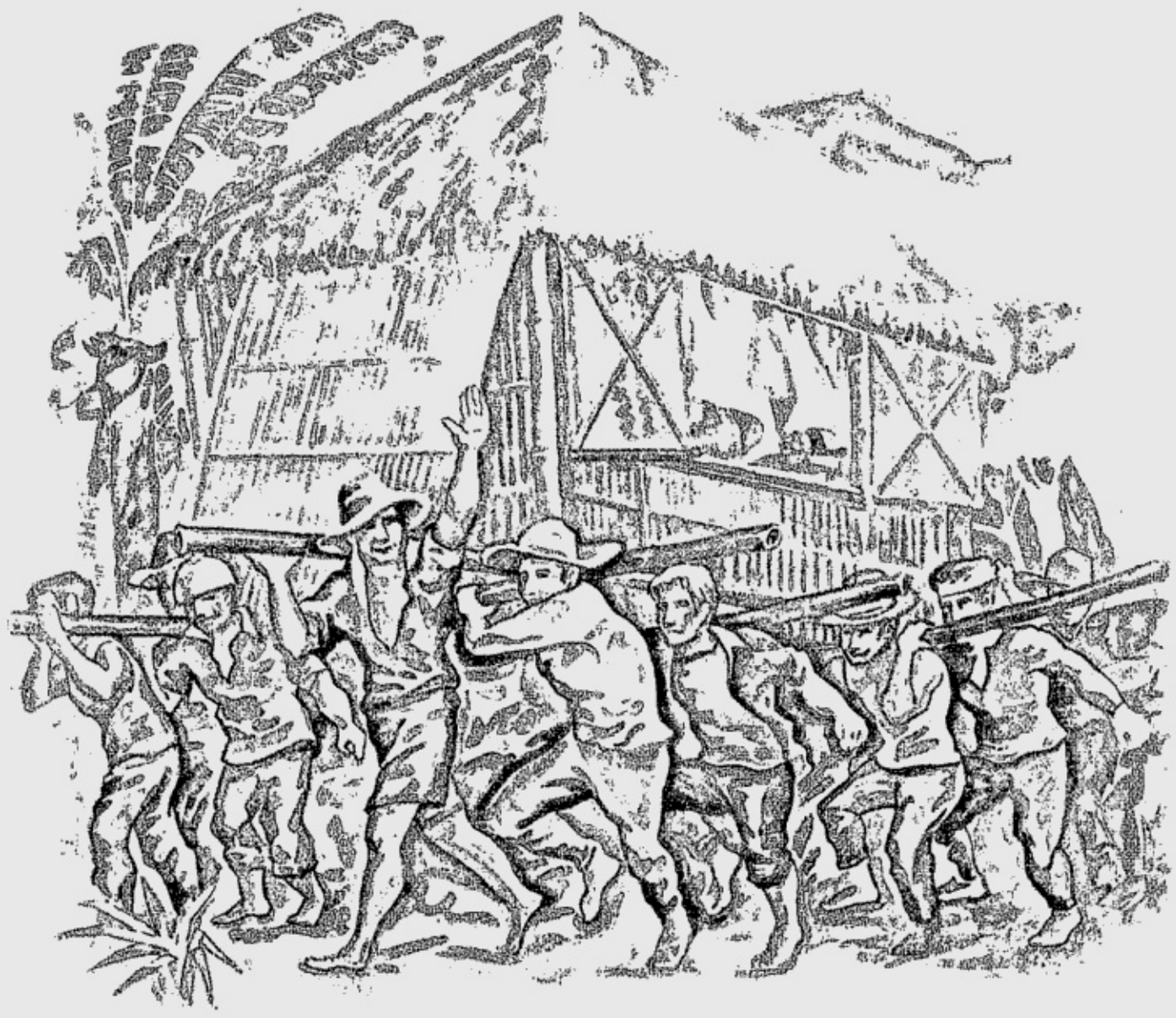

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There's a GIRL in my son's room!

By Thelma Sioson San Juan
Contributor

IT WAS in the middle of the night that the dogs' barking and yelping stirred me up. Something's afoot with the neighbors, I thought. The canine commotion didn't stop so I got up from bed, walked to my 15-year-old son's room because I wanted to ask if my boys heard something too. I opened the door, at that moment, even in the dark, you could see my face startled into a dough-white, like I had just been given a backhand shot by a man who claimed he hardly played tennis—that zipped right past me it was just a blur.

Seated on my son's bed was a girl working the PlayStation along with two or three other guys, and of course, my kid. At 2 or 3 in the morning?! A girl in my 15-year-old baby's room?!

Harmless playing

Faux pas #1: I closed the door behind me, without even talking to our nocturnal visitors. Faux pas #2: I talked to the people who'd know the least, our household helpers, whom I asked who were those creatures, especially the girl, and how did they get in there. Of course, they had no answers.

By the time I gathered my wits, the visitors had gone. Of course, my son was wondering why I was on the verge of cardiac arrest. I told him, do that girl's parents even know where she was in the dead of night?

"But Ma, we were just doing PlayStation," my son said, adding that the group was from the neighboring village. Never saw them before, I told him and added that in my time, no girl would be found in a guy's room in the middle of the night, or at any time of day, not even when they were planning an anti-Marcos revolution. My son still couldn't get the maternal fuss and went to sleep with a neat conscience, I presumed.

Another night, months later, I was going down the stairs onto the living room to check if my sons were back from their "gimmick." As I stepped down onto the room, even in half-darkness, I saw sprawled before me the immobile body of my 15-year-old (yeah, him again), arms spread out, eyes shut. A few feet away from him lay another young body, as transfixed as his friend's, of course, both of them blissfully dead to their parents' world.

Again I wasn't prepared for this post-midnight landscape, but this time our help knew what was going on. The two bodies had been unloaded by our driver from the car, straight out of a classmate's birthday party, and laid out in the living room, there for the mom to survey the damage. It was my eldest son, 20, who screamed at his younger brother: "Ma, he's dead drunk. Ground him for a year."

Bout with booze

Apparently hearing the dreaded word, my youngest opened one eye, gave a glazed stare at the ceiling, and shut it right back in split second. Too helpless to mount a legal defense before a hung jury.

This was my first bout with a son's first bout with alcohol. I have two boys, born five years apart of each other, same genes but definitely opposite inclinations and character. My eldest hardly strayed into juvenile adventures, just like I didn't when I was his age.

My youngest is typical of boys his age—gimmicks on weekends, counterstrike sessions. In short, he has an active social life with a broad range of friends, a good number of whom I hope I know and even hang out with or at least I fix their entrances into DJ gigs (thank god for my friend Edge of Studio 23).

Except for those two incidents, none of them brought home major problems (knock on wood). They do rather well in school, and my youngest (the "adventurous one") had straight 80+s when he graduated from high school just last month, with a 90 for conduct. Both of them are the types I can ask to go have dinner and watch a movie with me on a Saturday night (what are mothers in power for?), on top of the usual family Sunday night.

What I'm driving at is that, so far (double knock on wood), they've grown up (20, 15) without making me go through life-threatening experiences. And each night I thank God for that. What I've had are what you might call hiccups, or all right, bearable pains and confusion. To go back to my kid's first time to come home dead drunk. That was when the thought gripped me for some time, every parent's dread what if my kid was on drugs? Name me one parent who's immune to this thought. Alcohol could be part of rites of passage, but drugs?

Probing

After that alcohol night, I was around my kid more than I ever was, not always physically —as they hate suffocation especially when they're that age— but tuned in. The

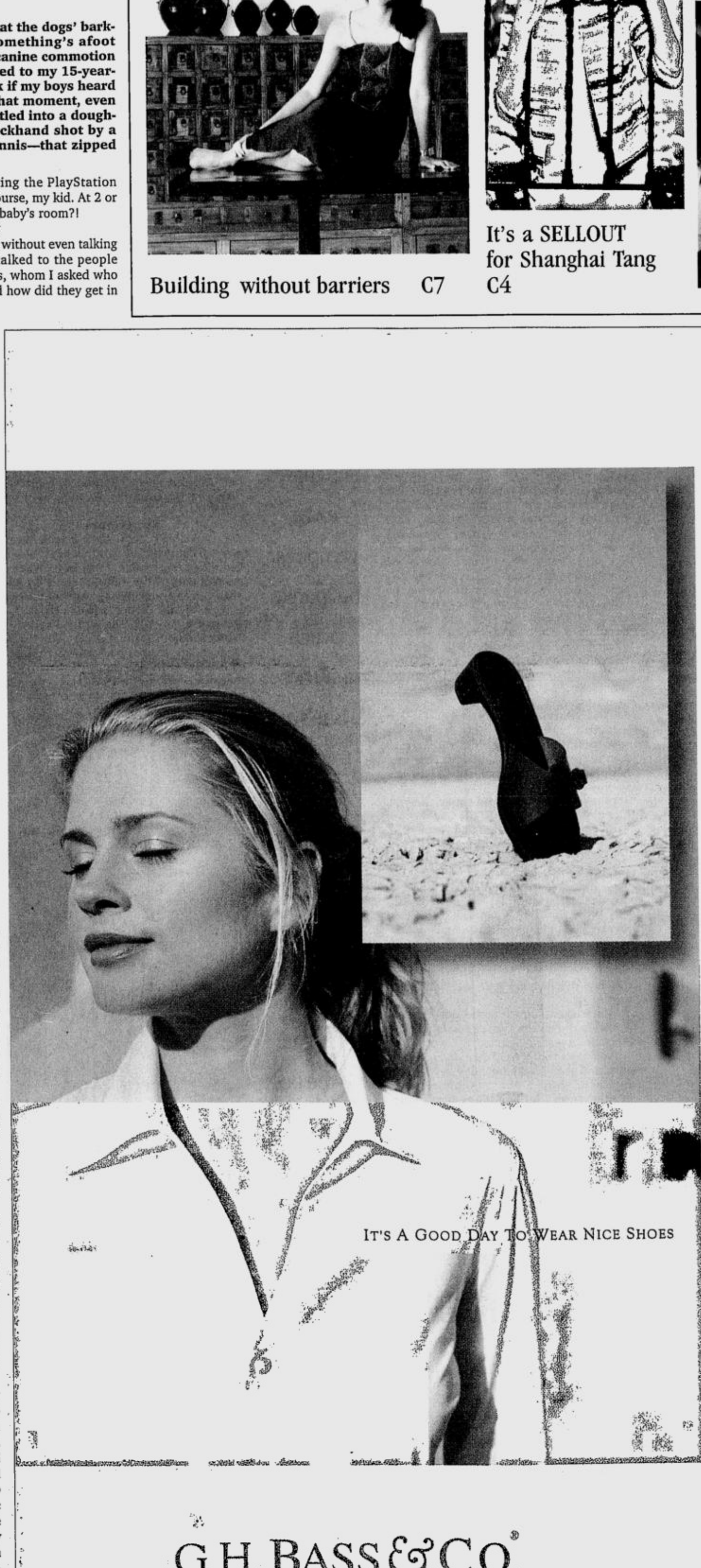
THERE'S A GIRL/C2

WHAT'S INSIDE

Building without barriers C7

It's a SELLOUT for Shanghai Tang C4

For a few wondrous days D1



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What is this thing called . . . 'Mom'?

By Bea P. Valdes
Contributor

SCENES from childhood. A mother is not all hugs and kisses, though these sometimes become a measure of her worth. In child rearing, there are certain things that not everyone will be prepared for—vomit, rashes, and rectal thermometers, for example. And in spite of a woman's fabled eloquence, as a mother she is bound to succumb, more often than her better judgment allows, to the repetition of a single word: "Don't!"

Anna Lim

Anna Lim is an acting teacher and director for the Philippine Playhouse, Inc. and the CCP. She was a Julliard scholar and now, the mother of two boys. She recalls words of wisdom from e-mail: "With your first child, you are excited to wear maternity clothes. With the second, you try to wear your regular clothes for as long as you possibly can. With the third, your regular clothes are your maternity clothes."

Sense of style is not the only thing that relaxes. In time, rookie parents learn that sick children do not always die on them. The first time that her eldest son, Quintin caught a cold, Anna roused her husband at three in the morning. There are no hard and fast rules on dealing with anxiety over a child that is leaking fluid from his nose. In the morning mom and dad found salve in the doctor's unperturbed advice: " Let it drip."

More wisdom and wit flow when children play medic to parents.

"Doctor, what's wrong with me?" Anna asked Q, her eldest son.

"You have a broken heart," the boy replied as he tried to jam a toy stethoscope down dad's throat.

"What else?" dad pushed.

Q thought for a moment, and then declared, "Earthworms."

Emotional rodeo

A friend once explained that children experience the immensity of emotion even without the vocabulary to define its scope. When something "bad" happens, an adult can figure out its logical proportions, and maybe find appropriate solutions. An adult can find refuge in an orderly classification of problems, or run to a therapist if a situation sounds malignant enough. But when something "not nice" happens in a child's immediate environment, it feels like the end of the world. The impact of the negative moment is cemented in the child's world, which is still being formed.

A child never remembers something "just as it was", but with all the drama of what it *felt* like, stage lighting and all. Children are impressionable; these experiences become the cornerstones of their own history. To illustrate: There was a recent magazine story whose headline read, "Christian Pre-School Turned My Four-Year-Old Into A Fundamentalist."

Once, when Anna was scolding her child, he pleaded: "Mama, I want you to stop hurting my feelings!" It felt to her like a shot through the heart. There is so much truth when mothers say, "This hurts me more than it hurts you." Reprimanding a child is never easy. Two-year-olds have the frustration threshold of a petri dish, and have the energy of a boxer in training. They will test all limits, break all barriers of what is humanly possible to endure. My own mother tore out a page from a magazine, which now crowns our refrigerator. It reads: "Insanity is hereditary. You get it from your children."

ANGEL Jacob

But, as Anna recounts, at the end of the day, when all is cried out and done, things mend easily in a cuddle. She tells her son: "I am sorry for having hurt your feelings." He replies "I am sorry I sad you, too."

So, the cycle is completed, the years pass. Any kid will tell you, half his childhood was spent teaching his parents how to behave.

Angel Jacob

Angel Jacob used to host ABS-CBN's early morning show. Her daughter would still be asleep when she left for work, and already in school when she returned. Sometimes, Arielle watched as Angel got dressed. Three years ago, Angel decided to give up the job to be able to spend more time with Arielle.

The reward: moments spent buried in bed, playing together, telling stories while the rest of the world wakes up, a magical time between mother and daughter with the half moon still yawning in the sky.

Over the years, Angel says her parenting style has eased up. She is way past the stage of round-the-clock vigilance. In short, she has lost her "eagle eyes." She is no longer frightened of imagined accidents, potential scratches and scrapes on the person she used to see as a 'walking time bomb.'

In a recent report, the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology states that "imitating another person's mannerisms and speech inflections" is one sure way to the person's heart. People around Angel and Arielle agree that the two now share the same outgoing and breezy disposition.

Angel says there is an advantage to having kids while one is still young. There are certain things you and your child can grow up together on. Angel, the model-mother, is into boxing. When Arielle was four years old, they did tae-bo at home. "Now she's eight, and I try to teach her boxing moves. She just laughs at me. We run around in the house, to such an extent that you can call that a sport. We also play in the shower, or hang out in the bedroom just listening to music (which swings from Arielle's boy bands and Eminem to Angel's George Michael and Brand New Heavies), watching television, or role-playing.

"Sweet and thoughtful," is how Angel describes Arielle. The girl returns the compliment, saying her mom's "cool."

Patricia Cu-Unjieng

Mothers can comprehend even long silences, and interpret a child's jumble of words. Trish CuUnjieng, locked in hug with her youngest son, heard him say: " I love you so much!"

"Really?" she asked. "How much do you love me?"

He looked at her with suddenly rounded eyes and said: " I love you twelve!"

Years of modeling and a degree in psychology do not spare Trish from the sweet irony of finding herself, as a mother, slave to the singularity and resolve in the word, "No!" when spoken by her kid. Nor can it prepare her for embarrassing moments. Out to dinner once, they bumped into an uncle who bent down to kiss Luca, then two years old. "Hello, darling," he cooed. Whereupon the child recoiled and spat out: "I *not* darling! I, Luca!"

Which means, on the bright side, that all is well in the task of raising screaming infants into screaming adults.

"You can't beat Trish," her sister-in-law once told me. "Every birthday becomes a spectacle, production planning starts months ahead. Her kids adore her!" From Batman to Blue's Clues, from Scooby Doo to Spiderman to James Bond, the theme is always runaway fantasy. Little wonder then, that the kids have become certified party people. Trish recounts: "On our way to a children's party, I was thanking them for accompanying me, even if they didn't know the child. The mom was my friend, so I had to go."

The eldest son, (also named) Quintin,

PATRICIA Cu-Unjieng with Matteo, Luca and Quintin

She chases away vampires, but panics over a runny nose. She's a teacher, mind-reader, master and slave. She's Super-woman, Peter Pan, and the best PC games player in the world

asked: "So what is his name and how old is he?" Matteo, the second-born, retorted: "Who cares, Quintin? As long as it's a party!"

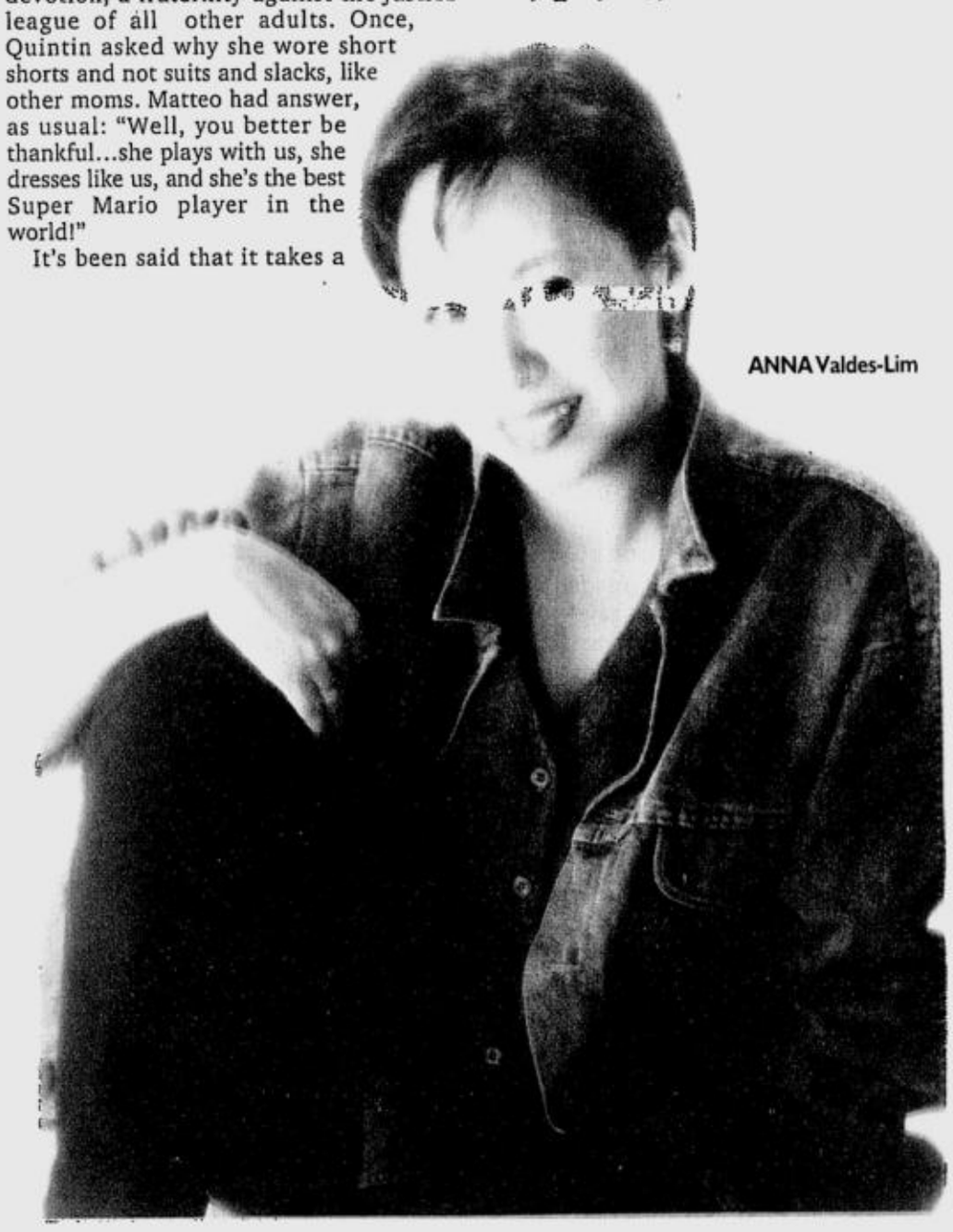
Supermom

Trish is Supermom: she can make vampires disappear and wounds heal. She is Peter Pan, too, leader of lost boys. When a mom is part of the gang, there is double devotion, a fraternity against the justice league of all other adults. Once, Quintin asked why she wore short shorts and not suits and slacks, like other moms. Matteo had answer, as usual: "Well, you better be thankful...she plays with us, she dresses like us, and she's the best Super Mario player in the world!"

It's been said that it takes a whole village to raise a child. In life's village, moms have a most sacred post, and hold, as badges of office, intuition, insight and concern.

"And just when you start to think your style of mothering is original or unique," Anna Lim sighs, "you find out that you're just like every other mother in the world."

For comments e-mail the author at beileys_crayon@yahoo.com


ANNA Valdes-Lim

There's a GIRL in my son's room! (FROMPAGEC1)

latter is better you're there, but invisible sometimes. This meant I looked up his friends, worked to know whom he hung out with, if I didn't already, probed (subtly) what his gimmicks were, probed (more subtly even) what his friends did for kicks.

I was like a journalist going after a story, building my network to begin with, sniffing around for leads, marking faces and names, and most important, talking, no, chatting, with my kid when he felt like it, when there was an opening, usually in the car, where kids are really in captivity for a conversation only because they can't jump out.

One thing I learned, you can't always sit them down and talk. That's not effective because they clam up and give you the trademark "*Ok lang*" when you ask about their state of affairs.

I found more effective was catching their mood "to talk," which means this is in spurts, all starts and sometimes no finish, just open-ended. This means you try to be around when the mood strikes. Once in a while, for instance, I turn to my youngest and ask him, in light banter (or so he thinks), "What do drugs do to you?"

"Fries your brain," he'll say. It's already like a mantra with the two of us. Of course I also bring home horror stories about acquaintances/friends having bout with drugs, and I tell them in graphic detail, embellishing these as only a journalist with a hidden agenda could, and they listen. The moment they notice the hype interpretation, I go easy. I don't push my luck or abuse their listening time. Credibility is paramount.

Stay young

This year, I note, my 15-year-old has been hanging out, almost exclusively, with our neighbors, those he grew up with and who are family to us. He has other friends but they're no mainstays. Our neighbors have remained his core group, and I feel secure with that for I know their families, their habits. Each time I can use my cook's expertise and our fridge to further cement that bonding, I do. Small price for peace of mind.

To be a mother to this generation is to try to stay young, cool and hip, so you can reinvent yourself into the friend they want to have around. I even share their CDs (except the hip-hop). Today's most challenging kind of packaging is you as a friend to these dudes.

One thing I learned from the above incidents is that you can't ever be their enemy, even if, in most issues, you are. You have to be an ally, or at least seem like it, lest you alienate them and push them back into their world, which they forbid you to roam.

I have a friend who, any day now, is meeting for the first time the months-long boyfriend of his daughter. Possessive like all dads are, he's confident he'll do a great demolition job (of the boy, of course). I told him he could be the one who stands to get demolished. Never go for a shootout, I said, when you can still hold the boy hostage. (Scheming comes with the parenting territory.)

My ultimate key result area is to always be in my kids' world, gods, even if sometimes it sucks. I can't tell them what's right or wrong with it unless they truly believe I'm there.

My generation was known for its generation gap with our folks. I insist I'm still too young a parent to have that flaw our parents had. My generation, busy in the rat race, coined quality time. I don't believe in that either you're there or you're not. Kids don't wait for quality time with you to air what they need or want. I just try to make them see that given my career, I can't be with them the whole time; they've been conditioned to that. They know that even if I'm not physically around all the time, I'm only a text or cellphone call away, and I'm wired to them. I also bring them into my world. My friends and I always say that to the day you die, you can't say you've been a success as a parent. The role the life never ends. The final grade is never turned in. You can only try to make the grade from day to day.

And the rewards come from day to day. Last Valentine's Day; I found three beautiful white roses waiting for me that morning on the dining table. The card said, "I love you, Mama." It was from my 15-year-old.

Made my day.

Bust those dark spots

COMMUTING to work, walking from one block to the next, spending a day on the beach in cloudy weather and other incidental exposures to the sun should not be underestimated. Clinique's guiding dermatologist David Orentreich sees signs of sun-induced damage and premature aging every day in his practice. He underscores the importance of every day sun protection.

Clinique's new generation of sunblocks isn't heavy and pasty. The Cityblock Sheer Oil-Free Daily Face Protector offers SPF protection without the chemical sunscreens. A lightweight titanium and zinc-based formula protects the skin from UVA/UVB and infra-red rays. Anti-oxidants shield the skin from environmental irritants. It also contains an anti-irritant that reduces skin surface redness.

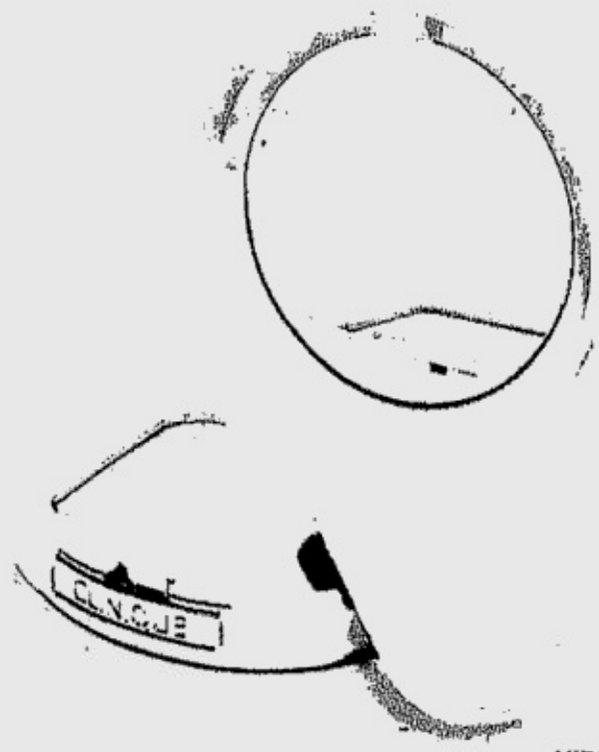
The formula is sheer and leaves no ashy appearance on darker skin tones. Unlike other sunblocks, which make dilute the foundation shade, Clinique's Cityblock contains silica to provide a smooth surface for foundation to cling to and to enable makeup to stay true to its color.

The sunblock is essential for those who use Clinique's whitening line. It recently introduced Active White Lab Formula Essence. It contains a melanin interception and dispersion complex that prevents the skin from overproducing melanin. It also breaks apart pigment clusters that cause dark spots. This formula is sweat- and water-resistant. If you sweat, you won't get white streaks.

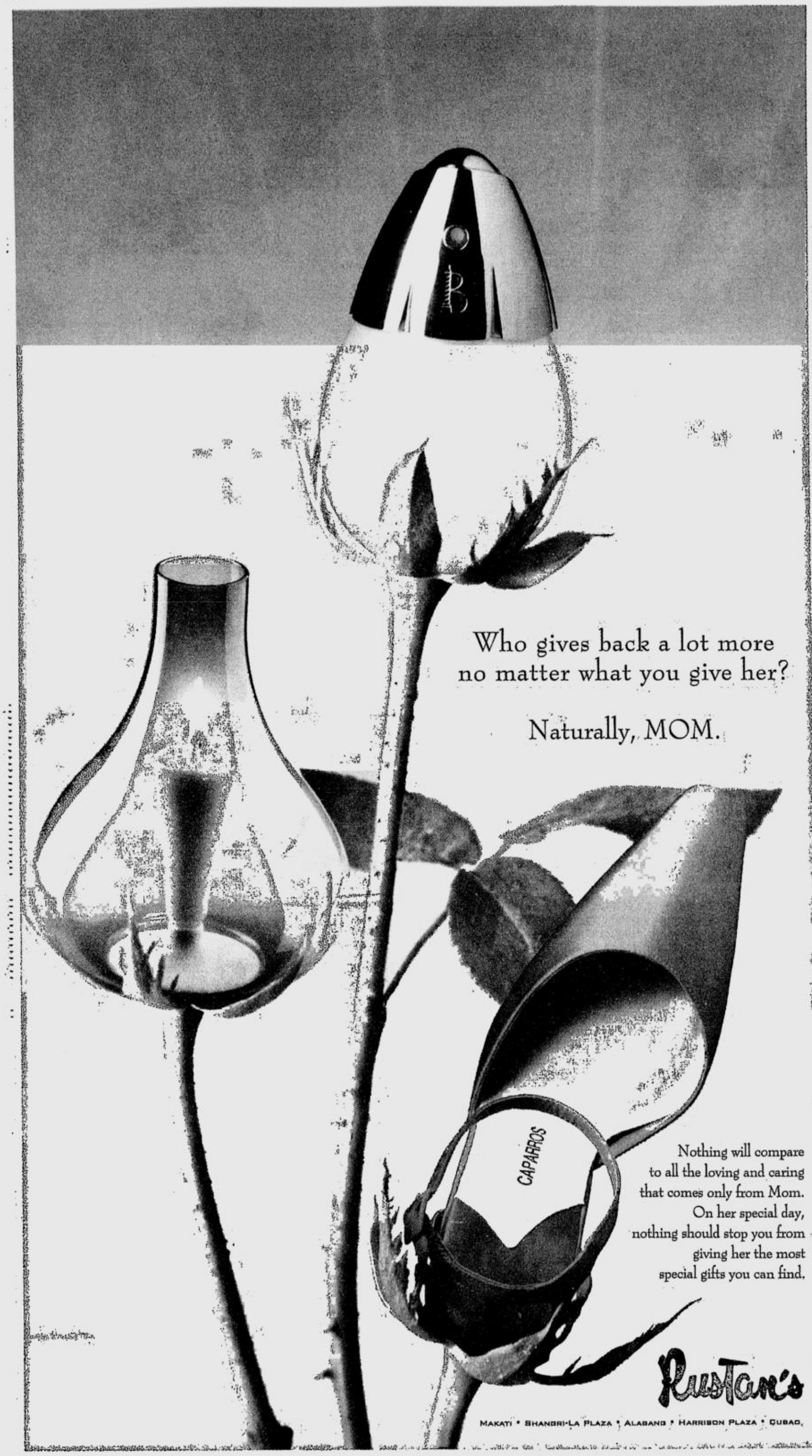
To ensure the performance of the essence, the Active White Light Reflecting Powder Makeup hides dark spots, freckles, discoloration and large pores. Like the Cityblock, the formula gives high sun protection and is safe for sensitive skins. The mica particles that reflect the light, hide flaws and leaves the skin as if it were under a soft-focus lens.

STOPS melanin growth

SHIELDS the face from harmful sunrays



HIDES spots



Nothing will compare to all the loving and caring that comes only from Mom. On her special day, nothing should stop you from giving her the most special gifts you can find.

Rustan's

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Gift Ideas & Suggestions
Naturally for Mom!

It's a month-long celebration at Rustan's as we pay tribute to the most loving, caring, nurturing woman in the world - naturally mom! We want to make her feel special. That's why we're giving her lots of discounts, treats, and gifts! But the best part is, you too, can enjoy these treats when you purchase a gift for your mom.

Having a hard time trying to decide on a gift? Drop by any Rustan's store and shop for the perfect present at our gifts-to-go counters! A wide array of choices are available and for your convenience, gifts are all wrapped-up and ready to go!
It's three times the fun for Frequent Shoppers Plus members! If you shop between May 4 to May 12, your FSP points will be tripled!
So if you shop for mom, you get something for yourself too!
At Rustan's Makati, special treats await moms every time she presents coupons found inside the May issue of Metro Working Mom.

The celebration continues as we go from floor to floor with gift ideas, perks, and prizes from the different departments.

First stop, the Home Department.

Her home is her castle. It's her domain. And what better way to treat her than with gifts and discounts fit for a queen.

- For a P5,000 single minimum purchase of NAO items, get a free candle plus a candleholder at Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La Plaza, Alabang, Harrison Plaza and Cubao.
- 20% off on cash purchases on all regular picture frames at Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La Plaza, Alabang, Harrison Plaza and Cubao.
- Get P3,950 savings with every purchase of 2-pc Berndes Cookware Set at Rustan's Makati.

Tickle her fancy at the Ladies' Department of Rustan's with its wide array of gift suggestions, discounts, and give-aways.

- 20% off on Ladies' imported shoes, bags, and fashion accessories with every P2,500 minimum net purchase of The Sak shoes and bags
- 30% off on every purchase of fans and handkerchiefs
- Free nail care kit with a minimum P2,500 net purchase of The Sak
- Free gold necklace with a P10,000 minimum net purchase from Nina Ricci boutique
- Free compact mirror with every purchase of Carolee Jewelry
- Free make-up bag with every purchase of a pair of Aerosole shoes

*All Rustan's Department Stores in Metro Manila

The pleasure trip doesn't stop at the Ladies' Department. Next stop, the Men's Department with gifts, facial & body treatments, and discounts, all to captivate her loving heart. Men really do know how to treat a lady right.

- 20% off on Alfred Dunhill ladies watches, writing instruments, and leather mobile cases. (Offer available at Rustan's Makati and Shangri-La Plaza)
- 20% off on Boblebe-e bags and accessories. (Offer available at Rustan's Makati only.)
- Get complimentary facial and body treatments from Institut Clarins at Rustan's Makati for corresponding purchases at Montblanc shops.
- For every P5,000 worth of Clarins products or treatments, get 10% off on selected Montblanc Ladies' collections. (Montblanc Boheme -writing insruments and small leather goods; Jungle Eyes Collection - writing instruments and costume jewellery)

*Montblanc shops are located in all Rustan's Department Stores in Metro Manila and at The Powerplant.

Finally, pamper her from head to toe with special gifts from Origins.

- Get a Mother's Day limited edition set featuring Origins top-selling items; Peace of Mind, Salt Rub, and Ginger Essence
- Free Origins twine basket or slatted basket for every Origins product purchased in Rustan's Makati
- Free make-over on all Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays of May in Rustan's Makati

And, if you still can't decide, give her a Rustan's Gift Certificate so she'll know how much you love her. After all, who else deserves this much attention and affection--naturally mom!

Promo Period is from May 1-31, 2002
Per DTI-NCR Permit Nos. 0849 and 1510, Series of 2002

YOUNGER, SEXIER SILHOUETTES

Gaupo has some fun, and it's a SELLOUT for Shanghai Tang

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Jun de Leon
CONCEPT AND PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ANTONIO SALAC SANTOS

CESAR GAUPO has embarked on the most important journey in his life so far—that of self-progress.

Prior to this, production for his womenswear collection in SM Boutique Square had relaxed. The designs catered to a limited clientele meant to slip into shapely silhouettes, but women had grown taller and wider, and demanded more flattering fits. The local retail landscape did not look so promising, either. Designers were still dependent on imported fabrics, and faced stiff competition from smuggled goods and low-priced foreign labels.

Last year, Gaupo received an offer to work as chief designer for Shanghai Tang in Hong Kong, marking yet another beginning in his remarkable career.

Taking a risk

Gaupo had long resisted the idea of working abroad; the laid-back pace of his garments business in Manila had become habitual to him. When he started working in Hong Kong, he realized that a life of ease was nothing compared to the rewards of artistic maturity.

The designer admits that his early outlook was always towards making a living instead of making a life. Now he sees that, if he didn't muster enough guts to leave his comfort zone, he might never have known the nearly limitless possibilities in design that now fuel his work. Although he's 56, Gaupo feels younger at heart than ever, more eager to learn—and impart—all that he can.

Zest, mirth, candor, warmth, and honesty—friends and colleagues have always admired these qualities in Gaupo. There's hardly a disparity between his public and private selves, or in the way he interacts with people in different circles. Everyone is happy that he has joined a renowned design house that appreciates his immense talent and rewards it handsomely.

Innovations

Shanghai Tang gave traditional Chinese clothing a hip twist with bold colors and modern construction. It specialized in couture by Shanghainese tailoring. Now owned by a French company called Richemont, Shanghai Tang is expanding its image from Chinese luxury into a global label.

The hiring of a Filipino designer underscores the company's multi-cultural direction.

To the design house's latest couture collection, Gaupo lent his signature touch. He made the silhouettes younger, sexier, less stuffy and more relaxed, with the use of comfortable fabrics. The cheongsam and traditional men's jackets, for instance, became more sensual with Gaupo's choice of silks. And he fitted women's jackets closer to the body.

Any designer of worth knows that fabric is the foundation of a good design. The construction of the dress, says Gaupo, merely highlights the qualities of the fabric. To enhance comfort and movement, he introduced lighter fabrics such as cotton poplin, cotton jacquard, and silk Fuji that is lighter then crepe de chine. He replaced the conventional knotty buttons, characteristic of Chinese clothes, with zippers. The drawstring pants, another Shanghai Tang staple, he interpreted in linens aside from the conventional silk.

The *quipao* is a brilliant silk dress with high, straight collar and knotty buttons, a figure-hugging silhouette featuring long slits. Gaupo rendered variations by making blouse tops, experimenting with proportions and using men's fabrics. He added visual interest to the jacket by infusing it with jacquard or brocade in rich Oriental designs.

His simple ladies' tops were a hit. Gaupo changed the silhouette by introducing halter styles and ending the blouse slightly below the waist. These cropped Mandarin-collared blouses looked elegant under designer jackets. Gaupo played around with sleeves, introducing the three-quarters cut and creating fitted sleeves that flared at the end.

Sellout

Embroidered and encrusted with colorful beads, the denim collection was full of verve. Among the biggest hits were a faded denim jacket with blue Chinese patterns, and another one accented with a flaming red Chinese pattern in tattered embroidery. Gaupo had infused the previous antiseptic collections with his brand of fun.

In an interview, Gaupo described his latest work as "edgier." His innovations were so fresh, that 90 percent of the stock was quickly wiped out. The house would have obliged repeat orders, if it didn't take a month to produce the fabrics, another month to make the clothes, and two more weeks to deliver to the stores.

Shanghai Tang's prices start at HK$1,000. The most expensive outfit Gaupo sold was a gold *quipao* with a plunging back, cut on the bias in silk chiffon and encrusted with beads. It sold for US$25,000.

JACQUARD top in mud silk with shawl of contrasting texture.

EATING the forbidden fruit. Silk *quipao* with dainty floral embroidery.

LINEN *quipao* with vivid handpainting

THE PRE-WAR architectural elements of this Filipino home complements the tradition of Shanghai Tang, whose fashions are rooted in Chinese fashion in the 1930s and '40s, and interpreted in 21st-century style. The fuchsia silk shantung jacket with silk jacquard lining goes on top of the sleeveless jacquard blouse and embroidered silk dupioni pants.

MODEL: ANA LLOREN
HAIR AND MAKEUP: PATRICK ROSAS
LOCATION: ZAMORA RESIDENCE
SPECIAL THANKS TO RACHY CUNA

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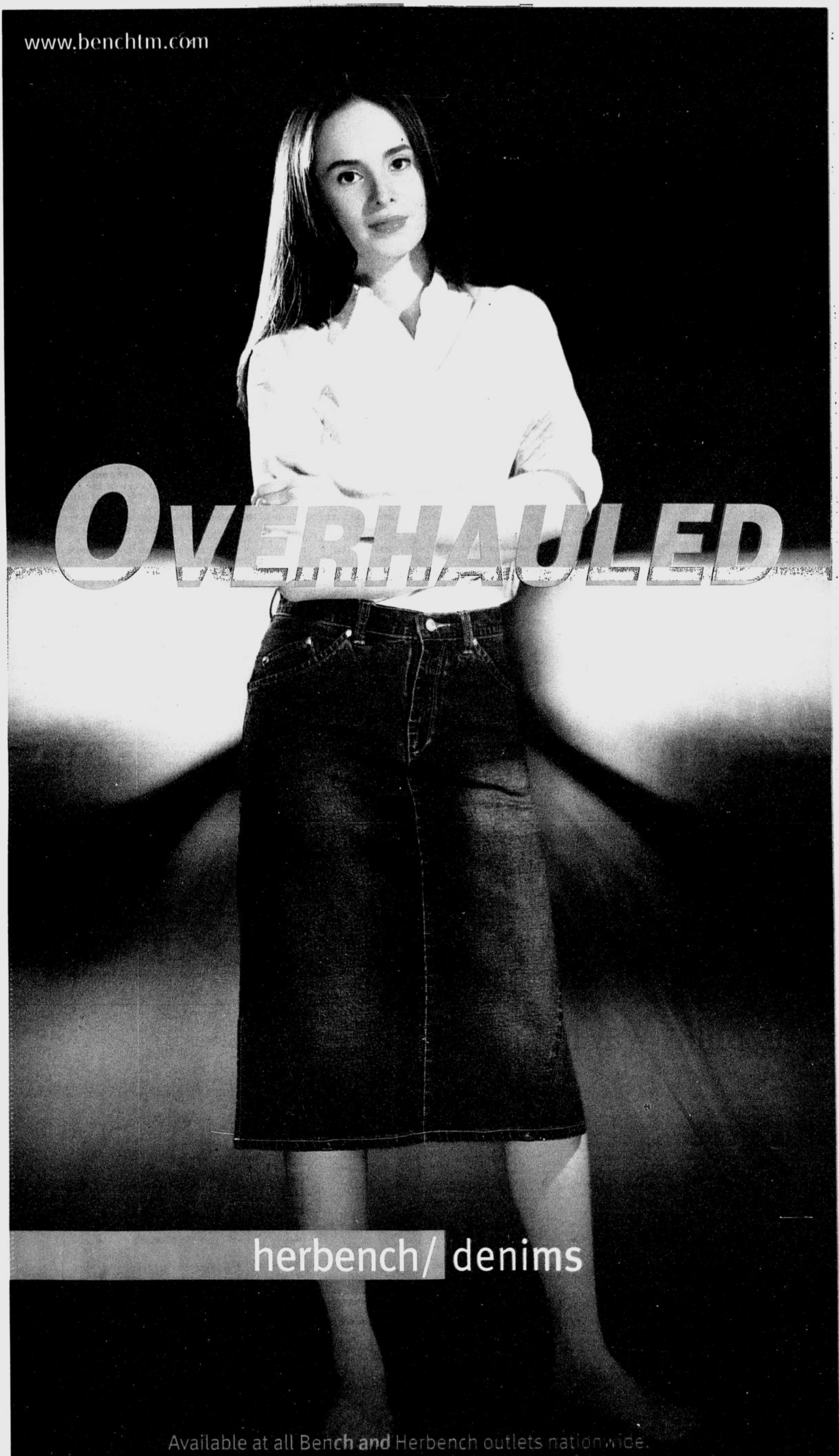

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All but forgotten

Forever gone is the stately town of Bacolor, 'Athens of Pampanga' and momentary capital of the Philippines, but not from her children's heart.

By Jose Ma. Ricardo Abad Panlilio
Contributor

FAREWELL to Bacolor. Silent, sad, sentiment-laden and, at times, solemn were the words in newspaper headlines, and on everyone's lips.

Buried in lahar, after Mt. Pinatubo's bitter and merciless wrath, was the elegant town of Old Pampanga, established in the early 18th century by the wealthy landlord Guillermo Manabat.

Thus, entombed forever are memories of the town, brilliant as the light of an Amorsolo dawn: the grand ancestral homes of the Jovens, Panlilios, De Leons, Valdez-Gonzalezes, Buysons, Rodriguezes and Liongsons that used to line the *camino real*; and Bacolor's stately 18th-century church, with its spectacular baroque altars.

THE JOVEN-PANLILIO family of Bacolor, Pampanga

Under the Spanish government from October 1762 up till May 1764, Bacolor was the capital of the Philippines. This was during the War of Resistance against the British occupation of Manila, when Spanish Governor General Don Simon de Anda y Salazar brought his headquarters to Bacolor.

On Nov. 9, 1765, a royal decree endowed Bacolor with a memorial coat of arms, a unique honor for her unflinching loyalty to Spain.

Athens of Pampanga

Irretrievably gone—and this is the most painful of all—are Bacolor's wealth of tradition and heritage. Not for small merit was it christened the "Athens of Pampanga." Nowhere in the province, probably not even in the entire archipelago, were religious festivities celebrated with more ardent fervor and spectacle.

Oh, but how to describe these apparitions of piety! The haunting melody of the "*Stabat Mater Dolorosa*" played by a string ensemble during *Semana Santa*, the hushed strains of the "*Adios Reina del Cielo*" sung in honor of the Nuestra Señora de la Naval every third Sunday of November...and in the midst of this stirring musical drama, the dazzling array of processional silver *carrozas* bearing aloft venerated *santos* resplendent in robes of *tissu de oro* and *plancha de plata*.

To me as a young boy, going to Bacolor for the annual fiesta was a movable feast. After the long and dusty two-hour trip, one came upon a quaint, genteel town *en fete*. Bands roamed in brassy cacophony, *banderitas* hung in hues only children could appreciate, townsfolk andManileños in their Sunday best mingled in the searing heat of high noon. From the vast windows of the stately old homes, lace curtains billowed in the wind, welcoming one and all.

A GATHERING of the town's prominent citizens

Always, one came upon a fascinating cornucopia of interior detail, respite for travel-weary eyes: here, the exquisite hand-painted walls and ceiling of the Rodriguez home, its dining room walls adorned with antique English china; there, the lofty architectural scale and detail of the Valdez-Gonzalez residence, its interior a jewel of Philippine art nouveau motifs; further, the romantic *azotea* of the de Leon mansion, larger than any in Rizal's memory, its *pasamano* abloom with roses in Cantonese celadon *jardinierres*, a whiff of *ilang-ilang* floating in from the vast gardens.

Oldest town

The Malig abode was said to be the oldest of all, its rooms furnished with well-preserved *silyones, kapiyas* and *mariposas* untouched by any restorer's hand, bearing instead the patina of time.

But closer to heart and mind than all the rest, was my Lolo Pepe's ancestral manse. Generations of Santos Joven-Panlilios had been born and raised there, including my own father, Jesus. Memorable were the priceless portraits of Don Jose de Leon y Santos and Doña Ramona Santos y Joven, by the eminent 19th-century portraitist, Simon Flores y de la Rosa, a resident of Bacolor; the intricate *calados* defining the various areas of the house; the *punkah* or manual ceiling fans suspended over the long dining table; and lastly, the *capilla*, an entire room in itself, where the family had Holy Mass celebrated yearly on *Domingo in Albis*, the Sunday after Easter.

Most cherished on this occasion and, in fact, in the history of this house, was the visitation and ascension of the Blessed Sacrament's *pallo* or *baldaquin* (an ornamental canopy over an altar). This was an unusual legacy accorded to our family by His Distinguished Eminence, Dennis Cardinal Dougherty. Lolo Pepe being the moving spirit behind the town's innumerable festivities, his home became the undisputed venue of all elegant entertainment. Rehearsals for the annual *rigodon de honor* were held at the *sala* and *caida*, with gastronomic *degustacions* for visiting opera singers and *politicos* in the *comedor*. Sometimes a new *zarzuela* by Crissot—the eminent Pampanga playwright—was staged beneath the ancient *sampaloc* tree in the *jardin* in the light of a full moon.

Phoenix rising

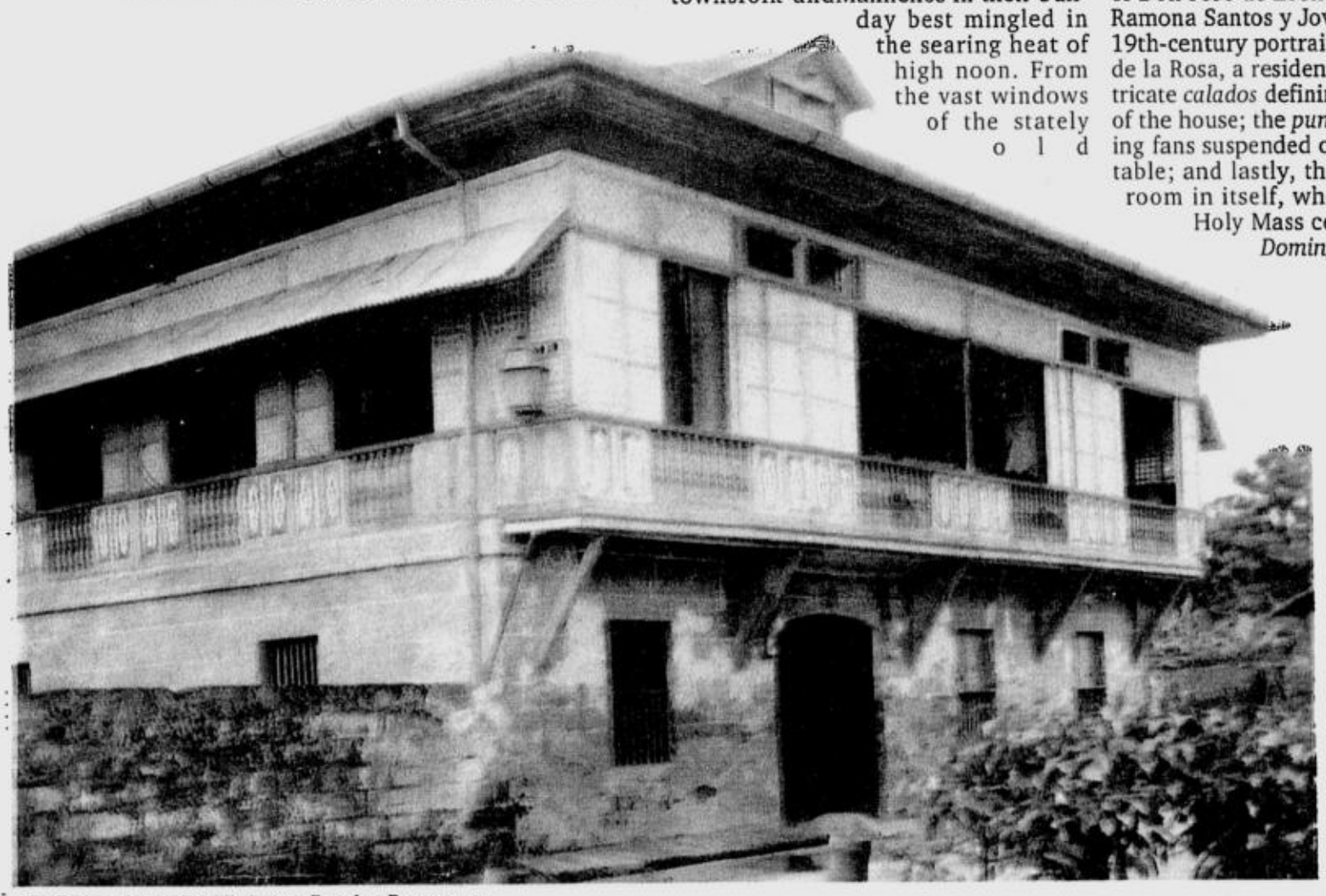
Until June of the year 1991. Mt. Pinatubo's eruption erased Bacolor from the map. Obliterated along with the landmarks was history, tradition, and a whole way of life that these nurtured. No more long processions, genteel memories, fragrant gardens.

Today, like the proverbial phoenix rising, our ancestral home stages a resurrection as Museo De La Salle, located within the DLSU campus in Dasmariñas, Cavite campus. For this virtual rebirth, our family thanks Philippine culture's 21st-century knight in shining armor, the De La Salle University System.

Sweet reminiscing

I remember the cool breeze on a searing summer afternoon, the lush green of the garden after a sudden rain shower, the staccato of a horse's hooves as a lone *calesa* drifted by in the descending dusk.

On the sights, sounds, and scents of summer ride the painful dirge of a beloved hometown forever gone. But shed no tears, at least not for me. There is no longer a home to go back to—not even a town—but in my heart, I never really left.



THE 1840s Joven-Panlilio house, Bacolor, Pampanga

THE LAST pcitorial shot of the Panlilio Sala 1991 just before the lahar tragedy

From Milky Way to Cirkulo

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photo by Edwin Tuyay
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

FROM the Araullo family that established the famous Milky Way restaurant chain comes one of Manila's most elegant restaurants, Cirkulo, run by restaurateur Maria Lourdes "Malu" Gamboa and her brother chef Jude Jose "J" Leonardo.

Their grandmother, Epifania Araullo, started a dairy bar in the 1950s. Soon after, she added *merienda* fare and cakes. Her children expanded the business by opening their own branches. Malu and Jay's mother, Julie, operated her first Milky Way restaurant near Malacañang before moving to Makati. Her restaurants flourished until 1994.

Innovations

Five years ago, the Gamboas had just returned from a foreign sojourn, and the children were brimming with fresh ideas from the West. They were encouraged to do business in the Milky Way Building on Sen. Arnaiz Avenue in Makati.

They started with El Cirkulo restaurant, which specialized in traditional Spanish cuisine. Malu had foreseen the versatility of a *tapas* menu that could be served for lunch and dinner. Anastacio Alba taught the Gamboas a few more Spanish specialties.

The young chefs gave the *tapas* a twist with innovations that included spinach with blue cheese wrapped in phyllo triangles, and mozzarella cheese sticks with anchovies. For the perennial favorite *sisig*, they started using *cochinillos* instead of full-grown pigs.

Unlike other restaurants which replicated the Mediterranean tavern with cement walls, ceramic plates and wrought iron fixtures, El Cirkulo went modern. Originally, the interiors and furniture, designed by Spanish architect Ramon Castellanos, evoked the atmosphere of a *corrida*, laying it out like an arena with Spanish hats, matador jackets and *mantones*.

Together, the ambience and cuisine, prepared by Chefs J and Jay Roces, made the place a tourist attraction. Diners sought the family-size *paellas* and classic entrees. It quickly became a favorite hangout of Manila's young party set as well.

Facelift

For a restaurant to thrive, it has to constantly adapt to its market, even it this means major changes to the dining experience. For the regular diners who were health conscious, the *paella*, being rice-based, and the dishes, being drizzled with olive oil, soon seemed too rich. Although the meals remained spectacular, the diners became wary of feeling like puffed shrimps after every visit. (And a few vain *señoritas* found the multi-level layout dangerous for their teetering heels.)

The restaurant underwent a facelift. First, the "El" was dropped from its name, to retain only Cirkulo. The top favorites—*sisig, chorizos* and *tapas* and the homemade custard-based ice creams such as *mantecado* and *turron*—stayed on the menu, but the repertoire was expanded to include more salads and pastas. Middle Eastern dishes such *as baba ganoosh* and *hummus* were introduced. And now, *fines de claires* oysters are flown in from France every Friday.

Natural flavors

Subtle touches have not gone unnoticed, either: *jamon serrano* is now used instead of bacon bits over greens and spinach salad with sherry vinaigrette and *chicharon*, made in the Milky Way tradition.

"The ingredients are of super-good quality," says Chef J. "There's no need to spend time fiddling with flavors." Portobella mushroom arugula salad is a hit for its simplicity. Fried fillet of *apahap* has a clean buttery taste, flavored with capers and lemon, and served with asparagus. The duck *confit* is cooked in its own fats and served with giant, creamy beans and spinach. For adventurous diners, linguini with *dolce gorgonzola* and crispy walnuts is a treat.

LAOLIAN Ben's artworks complement bold interiors of the new Cirkulo

The meals are attractively priced, with set lunch at P285. Caspian caviar is P2,900. *Mero ala Navarra* is Chilean sea bass wrapped in *jamon serrano* and pan-fried to sinful goodness, at P385.

Cirkulo is just as famous for unique desserts such as truffle cake with chocolate oozing from the center, and warm white chocolate bread pudding with a luscious, piquant bourbon crème sauce.

Wines are priced at P1,000 to P1,495, compared to selections elsewhere that average P4,000. Every meal ends with Lavazza coffee or other special blends, and gourmet teas.

New look

With the new interiors and wider repertoire, business has certainly rocketed. Generous natural light accentuates various combinations of textures—50-year-old *supa* wood and capiz counters, for instance. A few original motifs have stayed, including the matador hats, and luxurious upholstery in sangria and black. A tapestry by National Artist Arturo Luz and mixed media panels by Lao Lian Ben add nothing less than class.

Conventional wisdom says, a family business either flounders or flourishes with the third generation. With Cirkulo, it's easy to see exactly how it went for the Araullos, illustrious pioneers in the Philippine restaurant industry.

CIRKULO RESTAURANT IS LOCATED AT 900 ARNAIZ AVENUE (PASAY ROAD), MAKATI CITY. TEL. 810-8735 OR 810-2763.

ANNA Sy wears a Vietnamese chemise that complements her Chinese medicine cabinet.

Building without barriers

Lady architect Anna Maria Sy makes streamlined, sensible, timeless homes

By Avie Gochoco-Perez
Contributor
Photos by Chito Vecina
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

AS A young girl, she liked "building things," and she built them from "discarded materials"—toothpicks and "those Cutex things" (possibly emery boards used as nail files).

"Things that are visual have always appealed to me more than, say, music," Anna Maria V. Sy says. "I always experience things visually first."

The little girl of Ramon Sy, president of International Exchange Bank, has since grown up. Emery boards and toothpicks have given way to glass, concrete, wood, and steel. Columbia University in New York honed her interest in art history and steered her into architecture, her minor in college. Then she moved on to Harvard University, where she got her masters in architecture in 1989.

Harvard days

"I knew that if Harvard was in my resumé, people would look at it twice; I could work anywhere. That's the biggest reason I went there," Anna recalls. "I was also accepted to Yale, but the curriculum was not as good as Harvard's at the time."

She describes Harvard as "very competitive." She considers herself privileged to be one of only two Filipinos to have earned masters degrees in architecture from that school in the 1980s, the other being Andy Locsin.

"The dean was here a few years ago. He asked to meet with the '80s graduates, and there was just the two of us. In all, from the Philippines, I think there are just six of us," Anna notes.

Harvard education, perhaps above all, taught Anna to be bold enough to design structures that veer away from the norm, so that people who use them experience cozier, more practical, more beautiful spaces than their parents or grandparents had. "I never want to be in a state where it's always status quo," Anna says.

Not faddish

Even so, her spaces are never loud, flamboyant or weird. They are calm, quiet, uncomplicated, much like her presence. (Characteristically, her dress sense is simple, classic. On the day of the interview, she wore an orange linen long-sleeved blouse tucked into denim pants.) "I don't follow trends," she says, excusing herself from fashion talk.

Pushing 40 but looking about half that age, she is managing director of six-year-old Manila-based CS Design Consultancy, an offshoot of 10-year-old CS Architecture, USA. Her partner, Columbia and Harvard schoolmate Jason J. Chai, is a former colleague at the big architectural firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill in California. They set up CS Architecture in Connecticut. (Skidmore was the foreign designer of the very modern glass-and-concrete Philippine Stock Exchange building on Ayala Avenue.)

Jason was a year her senior at both Columbia and Harvard. Going back a long way, they are well- attuned to each other's creative leanings. "He grew up in the States, an American of Korean descent," she says, noting that they contribute ideas equally to all their projects. "He is instrumental in the design of projects even here in Manila. Even if we're in two separate continents (he is managing director of the Connecticut office), we constantly discuss things. We send each other sketches and diagrams, and talk about projects."

Design vision

CS Design Consultancy's portfolio underscores "... an attempt to draw upon local architectural heritage and building tradition, as a framework from which to develop sympathies with modern sensibilities."

For Jason and Anna, it is important that the work appears "rooted to its local context." They achieve this not through superfluous traditional ornamentation, but through spatial awareness, and a sensitive assemblage of materials unique to the local culture and environment. This design philosophy is consistently expressed in their residential projects, which they describe as 'streamlined vernacular.'"

Dream home

Anna's own dream home illustrates this: She would like to have a "huge piece of property and a little jewel of a house." She loves open spaces, and feels that a lot of houses in the Philippines are unnecessarily large.

"I would like to live in the country. My house would have a modern language, but I will not use shiny surfaces. I like stone that's honed or matte, and natural colors like beige, grays, neutrals – not pastels, but maybe lime green or mint green. The house should feel open, with a constant breeze, lots of sunlight. I'd probably be on a budget so I would use the minimum amount of wood to get the maximum effect. There will be two to three bedrooms, a swimming pool, reflecting pools. I really like the idea of having water and seeing water. Ideally, the house would be near the sea."

But Anna says she and her partner are really "a mite more flexible than others. We can do projects in traditional designs and give them our own twists."

Projects

The Binamira Residence in Peninsula Punta Fuego, Batangas, is very modern. It has no ornamentation. The richness of the house, Anna says, comes from the contrast in materials used, as in dark-stained cabinetry set against very light flooring, "rather than embellishing the house with more wood details." For the base of the house, adobe was used, and the upper part was simply painted white. Because it is not beach front property, Anna and Jason directed the focus within, by creating a "visual center" – a pool in the middle of the house.

"At the end of the day," Anna says, "we want a residence to look elegant, timeless, not trying too hard. And no gimmickry. Forget whimsical shapes that you may find appealing in the beginning, but tire of later on. What makes a place exciting is the way spaces are used and experienced. Walking through the house should make you see what makes it different."

The Binamira dining room is open on all sides. Anna says, "You feel like you're on the beach. You are not constrained by normal dining room enclosures found in most city homes." But what to do when it rains? "There's dining space in the kitchen. That's the middle ground. We wanted to design a house without interior or exterior barriers."

INTERESTING way to bring plants into a Makati condo.

Bright young things

Anna's list of "young designers doing interesting things" on the domestic front includes Ed Calma for his "very distinct, pure modernist" style which, to the layman, would be white boxes with elongated glass windows and flat roofs, and perhaps an underground garage. "I doff my hat to him for being so stringent about it, especially in a culture like ours, which tends to be very conservative." She also mentions her fellow '80s Harvard graduate: "Andy Locsin's office has done some very nice homes."

In Connecticut, CS Architecture does very high-end homes. One of its current projects has been purchased from Martha Stewart, much-admired magazine publisher, TV host, and interior designer. Anna is now there, having decided it is another project she wants to be very involved in.

Her nest

When in town, Anna stays in a condo unit in Makati, a block and a half away from her office. The unit is owned by her parents.

She has called it home for three years now, but the unit is "always in a temporary state," Anna says. She is too often in the US to make the place a passable reflection of her design style. She hasn't even fully furnished it. "I started acquiring stuff only in the last two years. I but only what I need, and then I have to leave again. I love beautiful things, but I need to kind of get overwhelmed by an item, in order to actually buy it. I will never have a huge house."

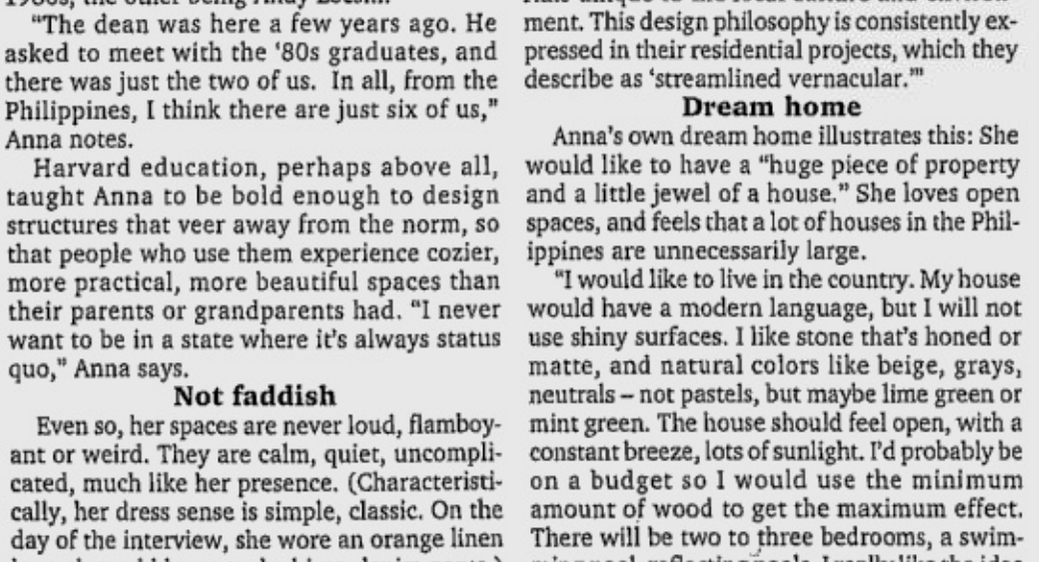
Happiness

The condo has Oriental furniture, but spare. Anna has a Chinese medicine cabinet set against the wall of the living room. There is a wardrobe, also Chinese, sitting in a corner. There's nothing ornate about the pieces; the owner likes the wood grain to stand out, plain and simple. A few ethnic pieces are used as accents. An almost flat wooden "boat" on the floor holds three pots planted to horsetail. Browns, greens and greys go well with the neutral beiges and whites of the couch, walls and ceiling.

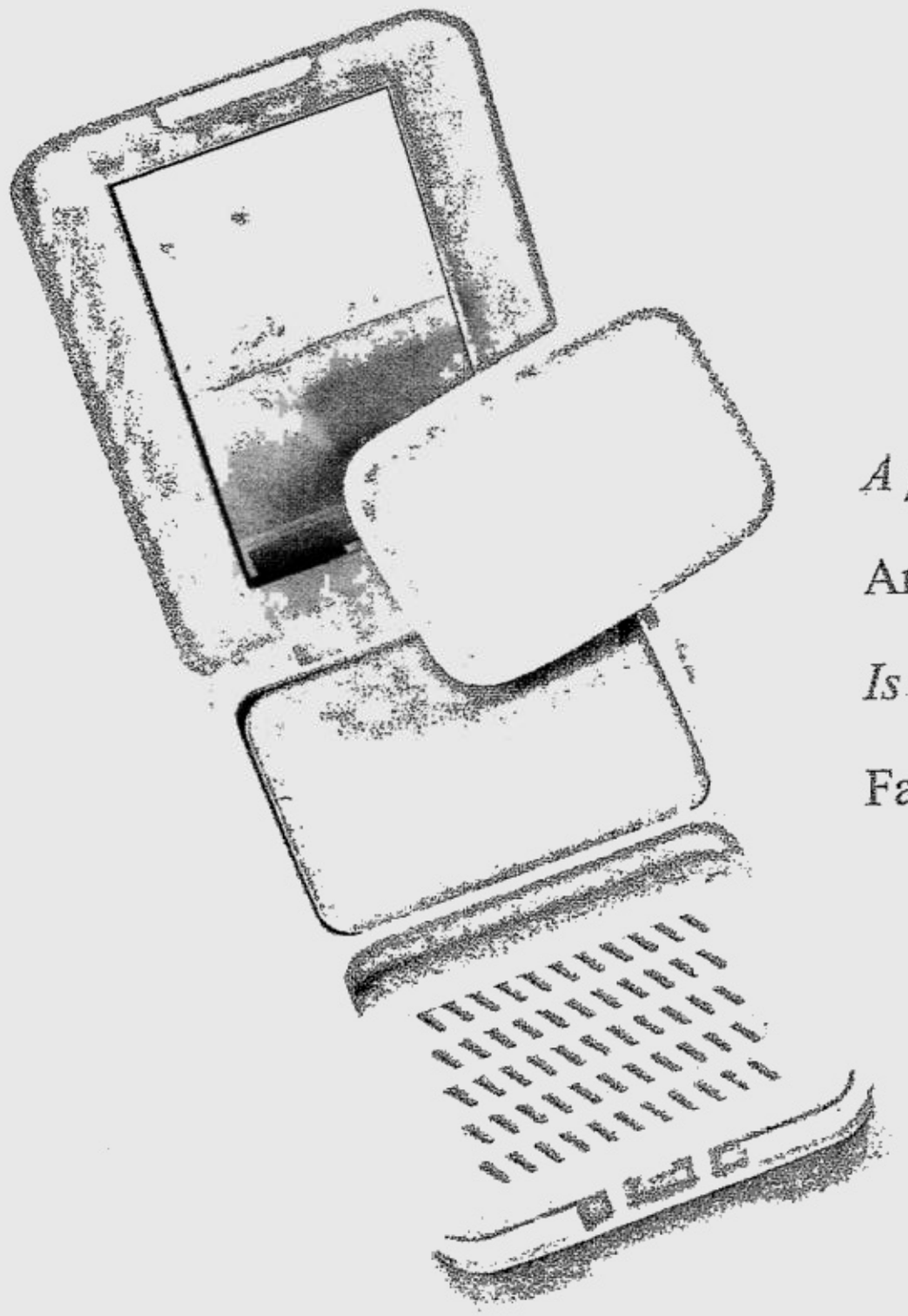
For the moment, Anna says she's content with these because, the fact is, she likes it in the States. She sighs, "I get tired easily here."

As an architect, she would like to see people in this tropical country become more open-minded about space management, especially in the living rooms and lanais. "Think of the spaces that you grew up in and question whether they are really appropriate for your lifestyle now. Also, we tend to overfill spaces with furniture and accents, rather than letting just special pieces stand out. And why the fear of empty walls? I find a lot of serenity in just staring at space."

Her gauge of happiness? "There was a point in my life when work was really, really important. Not to say that it no longer is, but now, I come first. I am learning to balance work and personal happiness well. I'm getting there."



WEARING a Vietnamese jacket in front of Arturo Luz's series.



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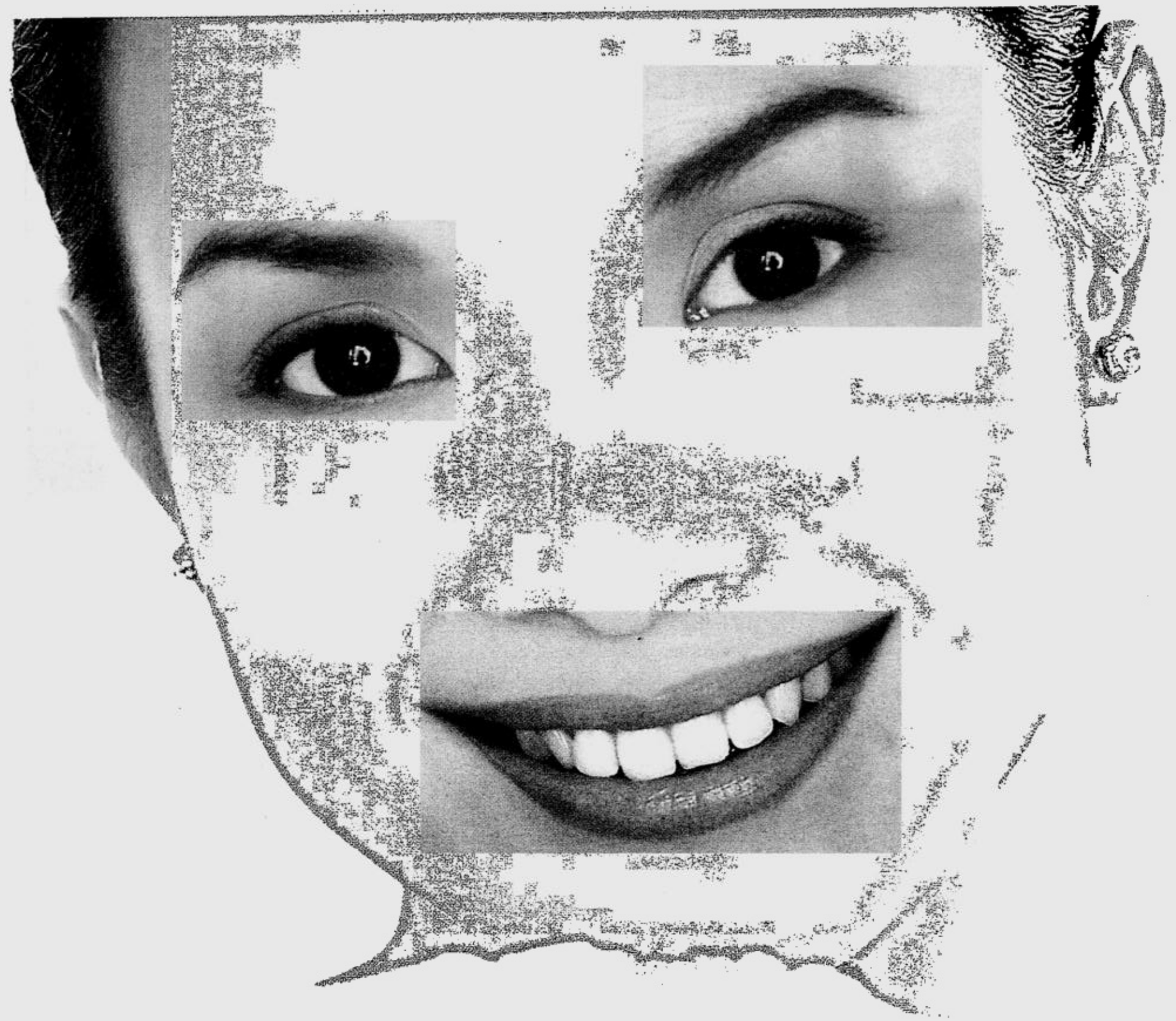

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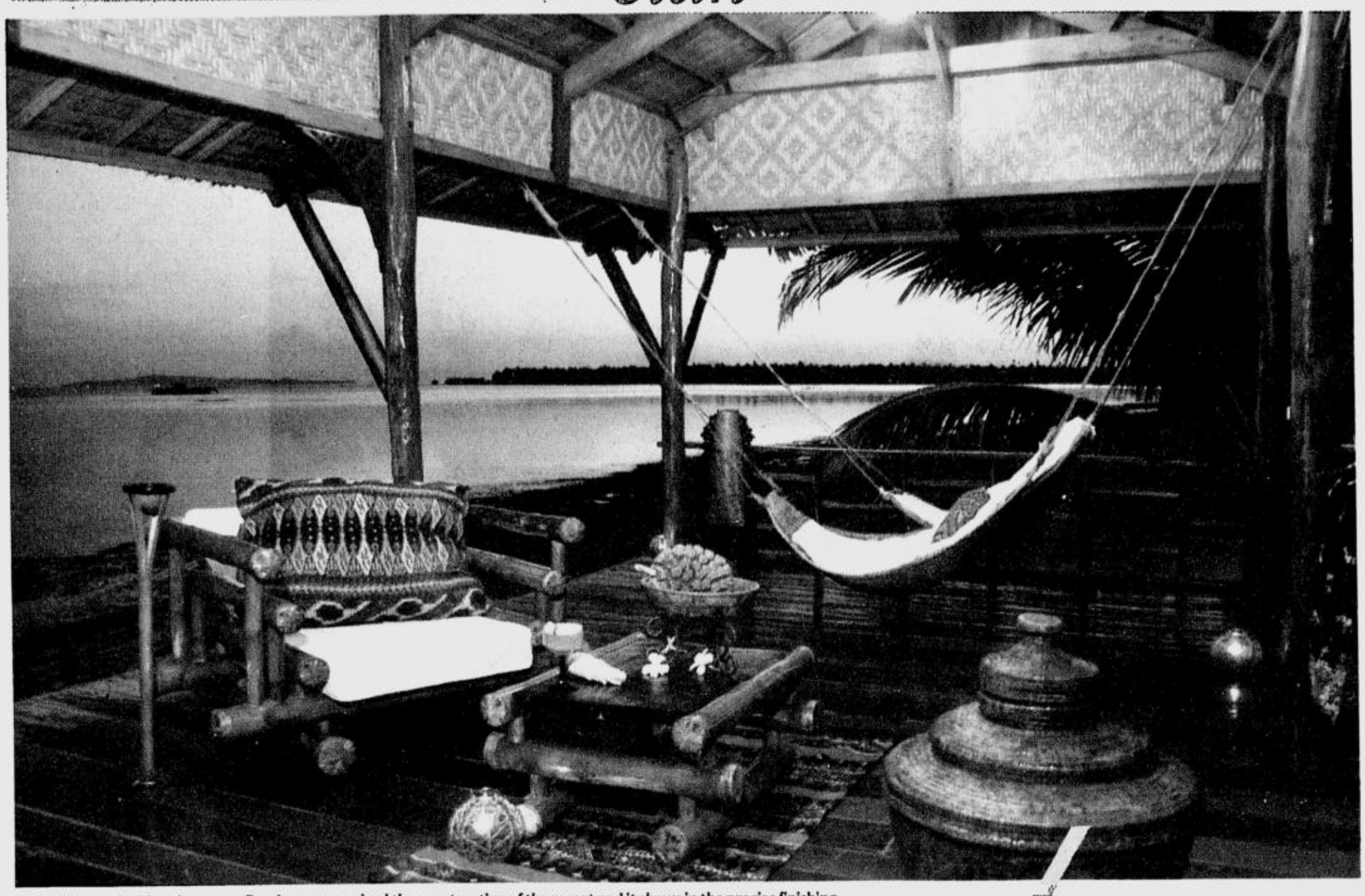

CABANA overlooking the ocean. Rambeau supervised the construction of the resort and it shows in the precise finishing.

For a few wondrous *days*

By Teddy Y. Montelibano
Contributor
Photos by Bobot Meru

TWO LINES from Charles Pierre Baudelaire's hauntingly beautiful *"L'Invitation au Voyage"* come to mind when I think of Pansukian, Nicolas Rambeau's exquisite resort on the paradise island of Siargao, in Northern Surigao:

La' toute n'est qu'orde et beaute'luxe, calme et volupte.' "Then, there is nothing else but grace and measure, richness, quietness and pleasure."

Les soleil couchants... "The sun, at close of day."

As he waxed poetic, Baudelaire might as well have been celebrating the passionate beauty of Siargao, where Rambeau has chosen to build his veritable heaven on earth. For all those, Pansukian has in rich measure–grace, serenity and pleasure.

There are no words to capture the sun, at close of day, as bathes in golden hue this anointed spot on earth. This, whether one is atop the observation tower along the shore

FOR/p.D3

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LOUNGE area, with the famous pagoda-roofed cabana in the background

For a few wondrous days

(From page D1)

in Catangnan, General Luna town, watching majestic waves ambling in from the Pacific Ocean; or sipping fine wine in Pansukian's lounge pagoda, beholding infinity beyond soft waves caressing the shore.

The 19th-century French symbolist's book of poems is one of several kept in Pansukian's small library. It is a hard-bound copy in fine paper, with translations in English by Jane Handel, and beautifully illustrated with duo-tone photographs. It was given to Rambeau by a special friend, who picked it up in New York. The dedication reads: "I will forever be grateful to Baudelaire for inspiring you to cross oceans and boundaries—both geographical and personal—in pursuit of your dreams..."

Leaving Paris

Indeed, Rambeau was lured strongly enough by Siargao to leave a highly successful law practice in Paris and come to a remote island in the Philippines to build not only a resort, but a home.

The Frenchman first saw Siargao in 1989 when he was 27, and whilst journeying through Asia. Rambeau was only the third foreigner to set foot on the island. Siargao, located along the country's eastern shoreline, faces both the Pacific Ocean and the Philippine Deep. When the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand discovered the islands for Spain in the 16th century, it was here that he left the first imprints of his boots. The second foreigner to come upon Siargao was an Australian surfer, won by its world-class waves. Then came Rambeau, eldest child from a wealthy Parisian family. A graduate of one of his city's prestigious universities (where he was also a professor of philosophy at the time), he was running his own law firm.

With his Gallic eye for beauty, Rambeau saw more than just lush foliage and the bluest of blue seas. He saw a shelter for his restive heart. Smitten, he went back to Paris only to wrap up his affairs, selling shares to his partners in the law firm.

He came back to Siargao five years later and began building Pansukian. He did not speak or understand the language. Still he managed to work side by side with local craftsmen, to build one of the most alluring resorts in this part of the world today.

NICOLAS Rambeau and the author take a dip in the crystal clear waters

THE cottages are a mixture of architectural elements and designs from all over Asia.

Foreign publicity

In recent years, Pansukian has been acknowledged by no less than *Architectural Digest* and the upscale travel magazine, Conde Nast's *Traveller*, featuring in its pages Rambeau's creation, and dubbing the resort one of the very best in Asia.

Each of the 10 guest cottages are put together in an amalgam of the best in Asian design. As for creature comforts—there are large beds encased in linen sheets, plump towels changed daily, air-conditioning, pristine and spacious bathrooms. For dining, only the freshest of seafood and fruits, good wine, fine china, flatware and crystal, a wait staff trained to give speedy and unobtrusive service.

Oh, but there's no TV. Or telephones. The people who find their way to Pansukian are mostly the discriminating, world-weary, well-traveled types who want nothing more than to kick off shoes and walk barefoot on the soft, silky white sands, loll on soft cushions, bathe in unbelievably pure seawater, or ride off to postcard-pretty islands nearby.

My personal favorites are Mamon and La Janoza, twin islands facing each other, where I swam in waters colored blue like you've never seen blue; and Bucas Grande, an immense labyrinth of a lagoon about an hour by speedboat from the resort, and which can be accessed only by kayak through Sohoton Cave. Here, limestone rocks covered with foliage spring from shimmering clear waters. The jellyfish are stingless, like those found in Palau Islands, Micronesia. Another favorite is Daku, half an hour across Pansukian where there's more of the same fine white sand and blue-green seawater, as well as Ed Calma's stunning architectural landmark of a beach house built for a (very) wealthy couple who come around for much-needed rest...and deep-sea fishing.

Sun, sand and surf

This is what other enthusiasts fly in for, from various parts of the world: first-class deep sea fishing. In these waters can be found wahoo (*tangigue*), jacks, and barracuda all year round. From March to June, one may also find sailfish, black and blue marlin, yellow-fin tuna and, if you're lucky, swordfish. Rambeau's resort has provisions for this activity as well as for scuba diving and/or surfing.

Diving lessons—open water and advanced courses—are offered in Pansukian. Its dive shop has brand new, top-of-the-line equipment.

Arrangements can also be made for an overnight expedition to Dinagat Island, three hours away by Rambeau's 28-knot 42-footer. Dinagat—with its limestone rock formations and coves, and beaches that are either blinding white, or with fine sand that is fine but firm—is a place the Frenchman rhapsodizes about as "almost not-of-this-world." In fact he concedes that it is even more beautiful than Siargao.

But there's really little need to leave the resort, as there's a lot to do. The room rates are inclusive of three meals, and such activities as ocean kayaking, windsurfing, hobie cat sailing, snorkeling, beach volleyball, billiards, board and card games, and the peruse of the resort's mini-library.

Guests can ask Rambeau for a tour of his mini shell museum, which boasts of several record-breaking size shells. The collection include terebras, mitras, olives, cones, cowries and vexillum. Half of these were found in and around the islands of Siargao and Dinagat. (Diving and snorkeling for shells for serious collectors as well as introductory "shelling" for the curious can likewise be arranged.)

Or one may choose to just chill out with a cool drink and do absolutely nothing but breathe all that wonderful unpolluted air, and perhaps have a massage. The ultimate vacation would be, of course, to have the entire resort all to oneself or with a few friends for a reasonable amount—all inclusive meals and all island tours thrown in (for a maximum of 24 people).

Visit Pansukian in Siargao island, Northern Surigao, built by a traveler who saw, more than lush foliage and the bluest of blue seas, a shelter for his restive heart

Getting there

There are various ways to get to Pansukian. Some of the resort's usual guests come either in private seacraft, dropping anchor offshore; or private aircraft, landing in Siargao's Sayak airport, some 40 minutes away. Seair flies a 19-seater turbo-propped craft twice weekly to the island, ferrying guests to and from Cebu's Mactan International Airport—and special flights can be chartered. This is a 50-minute flight from Mactan (after a likewise 50-minute flight from Manila by commercial jetcraft). This was how I came to the island on my first visit.

I took a longer and more tedious route on my recent second visit, a little over an hour by commercial jetcraft from Manila to Butuan City (both Philippine Airlines and Cebu Pacific fly daily), then by land for some 2.5 hours to Surigao City. There my group was picked up by one of Rambeau's two boats for another 2.5 hours to the resort.

On the return flight to Manila, I took a commercial two-hour fastcraft boat ride from Siargao to Surigao City and from there, flew onboard Asian Spirit for the 30-minute flight to Mactan International Airport. And then back to Manila from Mactan on Cebu Pacific. That's a really long route to take, interesting only for those who want to see the safer side of Mindanao.

Anyone who's been to Siargao and Pansukian will spend half his entire remaining existence devising ways and means to tear away from urban existence and rush back—in the fastest way possible. To live life, if only for a few wondrous days, in paradise.

For more inquiries on rates and other details, call Pansukian direct through mobile phone: (63918) 903-9055 or its booking agent in Cebu *(63-32)234-1282. Fax number (63-32) 234-1463. Email: travelvision@skyinet.net or visit HYPERLINK* http://www.pansukian.com.

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ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE

Re-learn how to move ... and live

By Cherish Garcia-Hernandez
Contributor
Photos by Neal Oshima

I REMEMBER reading a story about musicians and other performing artists who complemented their training with the Alexander Technique. Being a dancer, I was intrigued.

Mostly it is described as a mind-body exercise to move the body more efficiently. But this is not like Pilates or *hatha* yoga, in the sense that it does not consist of exercise sets. In fact, it does not require too much physical activity. It is basically a method of re-learning how the body moves, and how to make it move more efficiently.

F.M. Alexander, a young Australian actor, developed the Alexander technique. He had a vocal problem that got in the way of his career and he took it upon himself to find a cure. Through self-observation he discovered a crucial relationship between the head, neck and spine. The quality of that relationship, whether compressed or free, determines the quality of overall movement and functions.

Apparently people develop a lot of habits that put unnecessary strain on their bodies. By curbing these tendencies, breathing, blood pressure, depth of sleep, and overall mental alertness are improved. It comes as no surprise then, that numerous performing artists and Olympic athletes now swear by the Alexander Technique. In fact, in several prestigious schools like Julliard, the Alexander Technique has become part of the curriculum.

To become a certified Alexander Technique teacher, the requirement is 1,600 hours of training over a minimum of three years. In the Philippines, Joy Romualdez is the only certified AT teacher. She studied the technique in Boston, where she used to live.

I sat through a one-on-one session with Joy at Intercare Healthcare Systems. It lasted roughly an hour, in a room where there was only a mirror, a chair, and a flat table/bed.

First Joy took me through a series of exercises where I sat down in a chair and stood up from it several times. She supported my head from under the chin and helped me visualize what I should feel—that is, feeling the head going forward and up. She did similar things with my arms, teaching me how to feel the sensation of expanding rather than the tensing up. Then she made me lie down with my knees bent comfortably (to ease strain on the back), and with my head supported in a comfortable position. Again she guided me through the feelings and sensations using verbal, visual, and conceptual cues. The session ended with me walking in the corridor, practicing what I had learned. My head really felt lighter and my movements became effortless.

Obviously one session is not enough to gain all the benefits the technique has to offer, but I definitely felt a big difference. Imagine what regular sessions would do! A highly refined sensory awareness, balance, coordination, and an inner sense of calm, is supposed to be the end result.

Joy said she studied the Alexander Technique initially to help her as a classical pianist. She had terrible stage fright, and AT boosted her confidence immensely. She also noticed a big difference in her overall coordination.

The AT mind-body concept makes it ideal even for fitness enthusiasts, because a heightened sense of awareness reduces the risk of injury. Pregnant women and the wheelchair-bound can likewise benefit from it because it is definitely not vigorous exercise.

Joy suggests at least 12 sessions for marked improvement. Many do go on to more advanced classes. Usually, home workout consists of simply lying down and doing visualization exercises.

The ultimate goal of the Alexander Technique is not treatment, Joy said, but rather to make a difference in the overall quality of movement by relearning how to do it properly, and releasing unnecessary stress.

> The goal is stress release and correct body alignment

ALEXANDER Technique uses everyday activities such as walking, sitting and standing to experience effortless ease in movement with minimum strain on joints and muscles.

E-mail the author at cherishgh@yahoo.com

For details, call Intercare Healthcare Systems is located at 8420 Kalayaan Ave., Makati City, tel. 890-3378 or 79, 895-1297 or 890-2547 and 26-A Eisenhower Street, Greenhills, tel. 724-6631 and 722-1846.

JOY Romualdez teaches Maritina Romulo the use of the "Primary Central"—or how to lengthen the neck.

A SESSION ends with table work which checks the limbs for excess tension that often cause chronic pain syndromes.

Keeping in top dancing form

By Becky G. Garcia
Contributor

JOYCE Meer

OUR featured ballroom enthusiast turned dancesport athlete is a lady of substance. She is not only focused on her business, concerns but also on her dancing. She is the enterprising business woman behind Dance Exchange, which carries all items related to dancing from shoes, clothing, accessories, to ballroom music and videos, all located inside the trendy and fashionable lifestyle boutique Wish at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel Shopping Arcade.

Joyce Meer has taken the sport seriously that she even travels abroad and takes lessons from world-class coaches and champions—one of them is John Wood.

Here she shares her views about dancesport.

What encouraged you to go into dancesport competition?

I guess there is no better way to improve your dancing (or anything be it golf, tennis, etc.) than to prepare for a competition. You then have a real goal. Competition is not just about winning, there is a lot to be learned. You realize what aspects of your dance need improving and learn what are your weak and strong points.

When did you start dancing?

I started to ballroom dance about six years ago when there were more than seven clubs to go to dance in Metro Manila. Luckily, one of my first dance partners and still my dance partner introduced me to the international style of dancing. At this time, there were rarely any foreign teachers coming here to teach or coach. I really wanted to learn more especially standard dancing. Again, I was fortunate, Mr. Wick Free the founder of Supadance shoes, suggested I go to England, the mecca for ballroom dancers. It was the best thing I ever did. He arranged lesson with the famous John Wood. Though I am not a professional dancer and at that time I could not absorb all of the techniques, my love for dancing only grew.

What's your advice to others who would like to go into competition.

Why not compete, after lessons, working hard etc. See where you are good at. It is fun, quite an experience not to be missed.

What good has dancesport done to you?

Dancesport is a wonderful way of keeping me fit. You learn to train like an athlete. One must have stamina. But you must perform you dance like an artist. You must be graceful in your movements and be aware constantly of your posture and last but not the least, do all of this in correct timing with the music. What a challenge.

* * *

Mondays will never be the same again at Conways at the Makati Shangri-La when ballroom dancing comes alive 7 p.m. to 2 a.m.

At the launching recently, former ballroom enthusiasts who were regulars of the defunct Zu where they used to dance every Monday and Tuesday came in full force. For them it was like a reunion of sorts. They were all excited with the reopening of a ballroom night at the premiere hotel in Makati where all the ingredients of a perfect ballroom night were present—ambience, five-star service, good music and all the amenities you expect from a deluxe property.

Even if one is not a ballroom enthusiast, one can still enjoy the music while sipping their cocktails. There were a lot of hotel guests who were at the opening night and had a wonderful time watching the ballroom aficionados showing their skills on the dance floor.

Shangri-La's food and beverage manager **Martin de Castro** and communications manager **Marc de la Cruz** made sure everything was okay and welcomed friends from media **Mikki Fenix** and **Chit Lijauco** with friend **Mila Abad**.

Leading the guests were former first lady **Imelda Romualdez** Marcos and her friends—**Mira Chiu, Berna Lomotan, Anthony Violago, Tessie Ong** and **Cecille Cobarrubias**. Ballroom aficionados, dancesport athletes and competitors were all in attendance.

IMELDA Marcos with guests from the Italian embassy— Maria Elena Jiovannini Olmos, Francesca Mancini and Maria Pilar Olmos at the opening of Shangri-la Makati's Conway's Ballroom dance night

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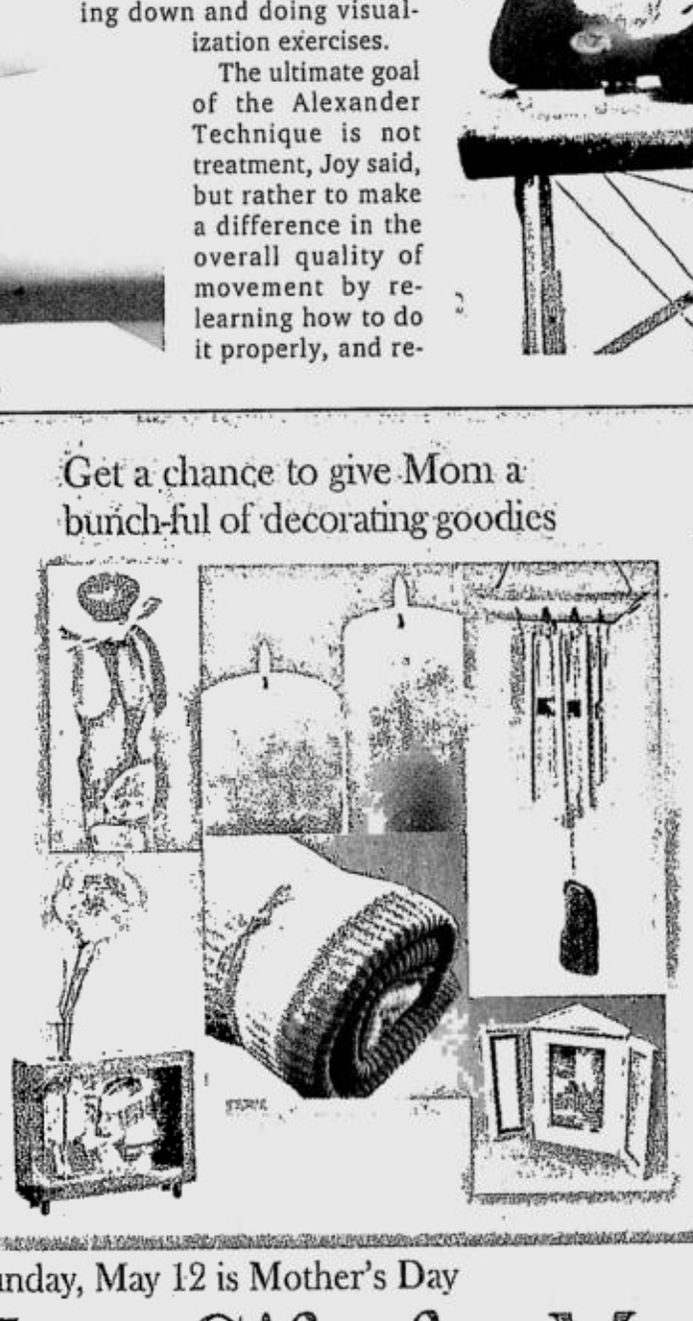

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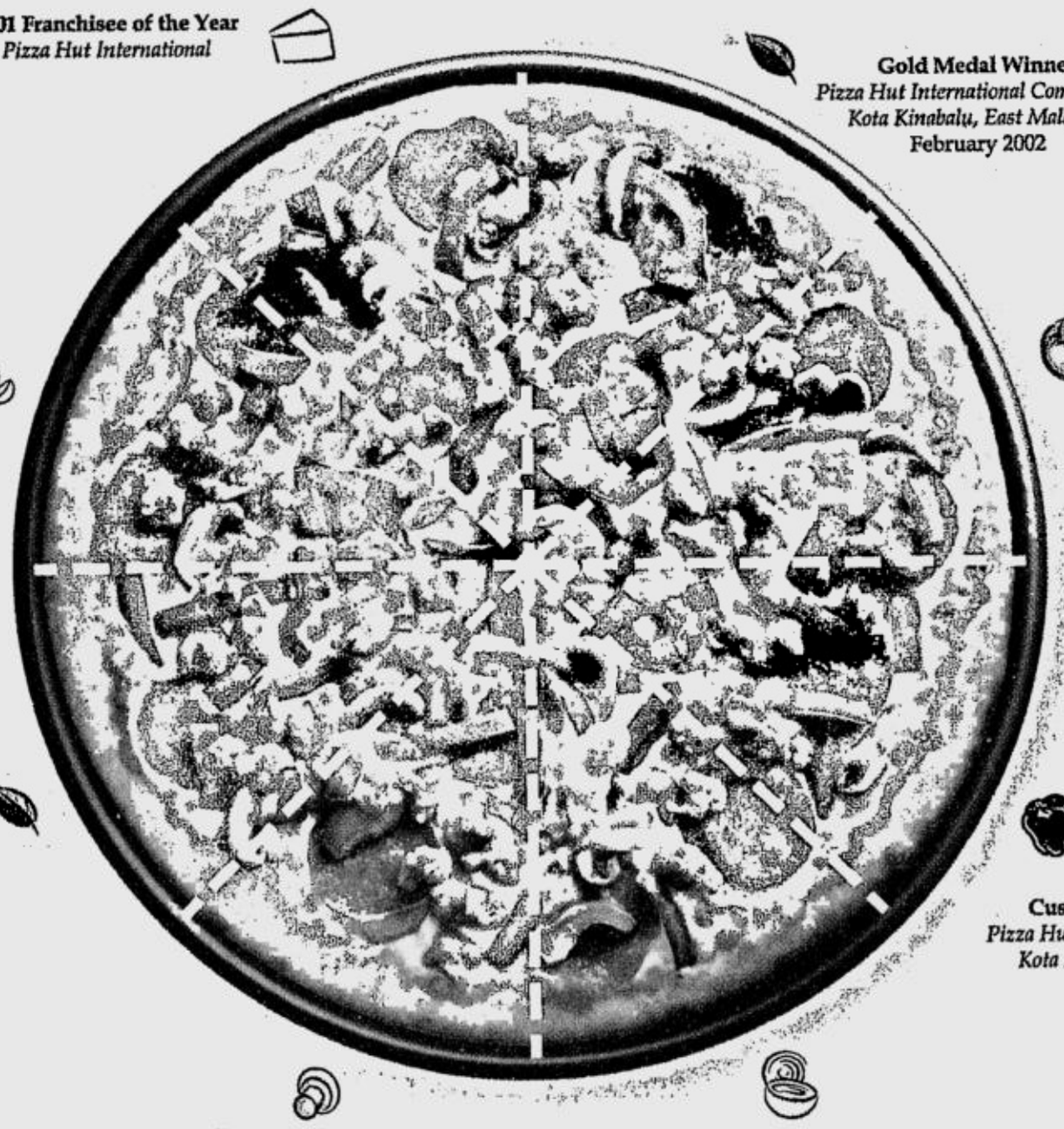

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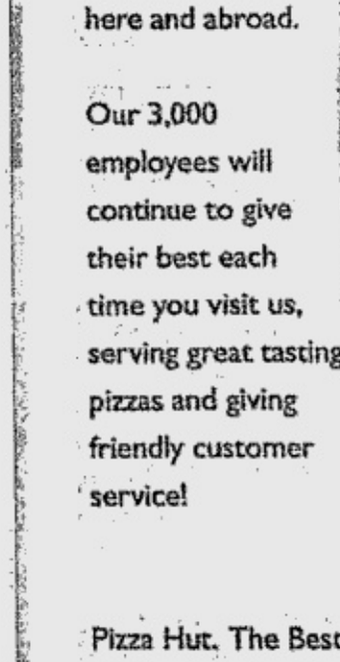

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SEE PAGE G7 FOR

Past winners, new directors to present films at Cannes

By Jocelyn Noveck

PARIS—Perennial favorites and some promising new filmmakers are among the directors bringing their work to this year's Cannes Film Festival, which also acknowledges the simmering Mideast conflict with an Israeli and a Palestinian film presented as "acts of peace."

22 films

The selection announced Wednesday for the festival, which runs from May 15 to 26, includes 22 films competing for the top prize, the Palme d'Or. Three former winners are returning—British director Mike Leigh ("Secrets & Lies"), Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami ("The Taste of Cherry") and Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne of Belgium ("Rosetta").

Among the US entries, documentary filmmaker Michael Moore ("Roger & Me") will present gun culture, starting with the 1999 shootings at Columbine High School in Colorado.

Also on the slate is the fourth and latest film from Paul Thomas Anderson ("Magnolia"), titled "Punch-Drunk Love" starring Adam Sandler and Emily Watson. Young director Alexander Payne ("Election") presents "About Schmidt," with Jack Nicholson and

PAST/ p.E2

NICHOLSON. Plays a man trying to run his daughter's life in Alexander Payne's "About Schmidt."

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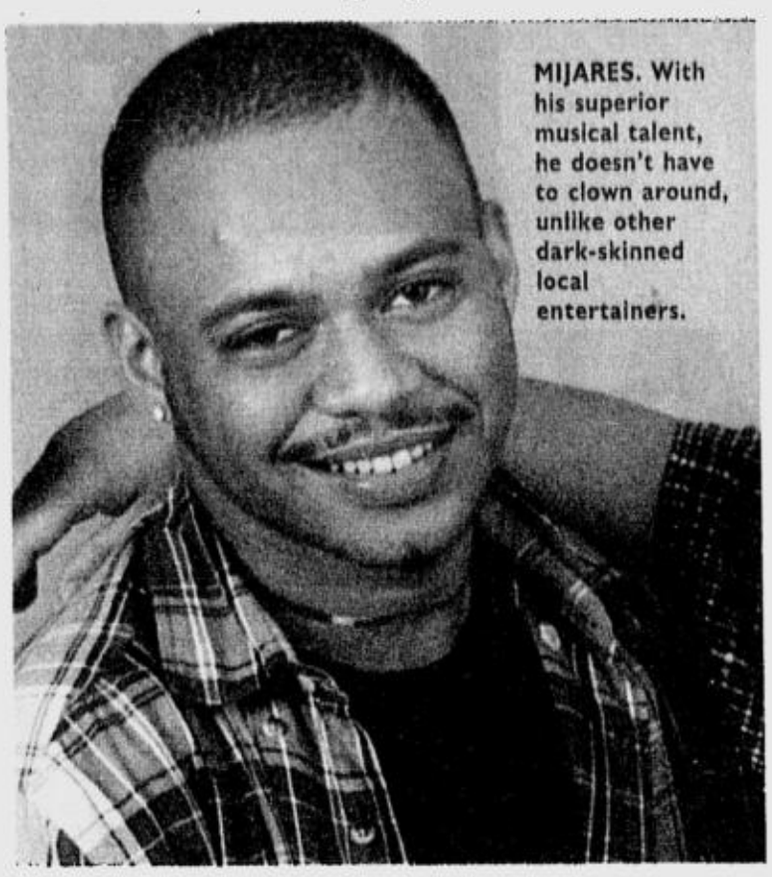
Black isn't funny



MIJARES. With his superior musical talent, he doesn't have to clown around, unlike other dark-skinned local entertainers.

LAST Sunday's "Sharon" did well by focusing on the country's black performers, but failed to make telling points about Filipinos' racist streak.

Instead, it opted mainly for an "entertaining" and comedic approach that blithely avoided the issue's most relevant aspects. As a result, the program missed its chance to make some viewers realize that they were racists, their behavior was hurting the black-skinned people they discriminated against, and they should immediately put an end to their small-minded racism.

On the other hand, the program should be complimented for contacting quite a diverse and comprehensive group of dark-skinned guests, which included South Border's Luke Mijares, Norman Mitchell, Elizabeth Ramsey, a rap group, two dancers, and a new recording artist.

We appreciated Luke's presence on the show because he didn't carry on like a buffoon, as did some of the other guests, but kept his cool—and his dignity. He banked mainly on his superior musical talent, and that was more than enough for him to carry the day, without having to clown around.

Thus did Luke show that our black entertainers don't need to kowtow to the local propensity to poke mindless fun at dark-skinned people.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

We really need to be reminded that our negative or comical view of black Filipinos is a throwback to that old "colonial mentality" which we've gotten from our white "masters," which still refuses to die up to this day.

It really is quite funny-peculiar to see Filipinos, many of whom are rather dark-complexioned themselves, poking fun at black people. It's "the pot calling the kettle black" all over again, an unenlightened state of affairs that we must really put a stop to—instantly.

For their part, our black entertainers should also stop poking fun at themselves and their coloring. They're aiding and abetting the cruel bias of the racists, which won't change for the better until they are bluntly made to realize that black can be beautiful, and is definitely *not* funny!

Above all, it's we, the members of the local entertainment audience, who have to change. For decades now, we have poked fun at people just because they have dark skin, or flat noses, or are "vertically challenged," or look and speak "funny," or come from the Visayas—all superficial factors that don't define the kind of persons they really are.

And yet, because our colonizers have successfully taught us to use Caucasian standards of beauty as our own, we look down on non-whites, not realizing that we are in fact poking sadistic fun at ourselves!

This won't stop until we realize the silliness of such behavior, and the cruel, painful effect it has on others. Let's all agree to stop being so racist and sadistic—right now.

'Sarap to Sundown'

San Miguel Beer's "Sarap to Sundown" Summer 2002 has lined up more cooling events in the hottest entertainment venues around. Last Friday, the party was at Sarabia Manor in Iloilo City.

Today, May 4, it moves to Cebu, White Rock in Olongapo, Insular Hotel in Davao, and the Havana Waterfront in Malate. On May 10, watch out as SMB invades the Entertainment Depot in Bacolod.

From May 11 to 15, SMB Summer Fiesta joins the merrymaking at the Pahiyas Festival in Lucban and the Mayohan in Tayabas, Quezon. Another SMB party on May 11 is at Picnic Grove in Tagaytay.

Other fun dates to watch out for: May 15, at the Santacruzan in Dumaguete. May 18, at Duka Beach in Cagayan de Oro and Matabungkay Beach in Batangas. On May 19, SMB joins the festivities in "Viva Vigan."

May 24, at Eastwood City, Libis. From May 24 to 26, at Balanghai, Butuan City. May 25, at Cebu City Beach Club.

May 27 to 30, at "Pasayahan sa Lucena" in Quezon. From May 28 to 30, at the "Kaugma" in Naga. And, for the whole month of May, the "Magayon" in Legaspi.

Star Movies this month

May 5 at 9 p.m., "Coyote Ugly" with Piper Perabo and Adam Garcia.

May 8 at 9 p.m., "Gone in 60 Seconds" with Nicolas Cage, Robert Duvall, Giovanni Ribisi and Angelina Jolie.

May 11 at 9 p.m., "Jack" with Robin Williams, Fran Drescher and Bill Cosby.

New comedy club

Comedy clubs are really popular with night owls these days (we all need to laugh!), so new ones are opening every month. This month, the new venue is the Laughfang Comedy Bar at the second floor of the trendy Tapika restaurant, 200 Katipunan, Blue Ridge, QC.

Some of the place's owners are involved in TV, movies and recording, so they have contacts in the trade who supply the new comedy club with some really funny and bitchy comics.

Tonight, for instance, the laughmakers are the Magnificent Four, made up of young comic comers Peter, Betty, Arlo and Joy. Laughfang is open every Friday and Saturday. The fun starts at 9:30 p.m.

Past . . . From page E1

Kathy Bates, about a man trying to run his daughter's life.

Destruction

Roman Polanski ("Rosemary's Baby") will be at Cannes with "The Pianist," with Adrien Brody, about a man who survives the destruction of the Warsaw ghetto during World War II. And David Cronenberg, the Canadian director who headed the Cannes jury in 1999, is back with "Spider," about a man with acute schizophrenia, starring Ralph Fiennes, Miranda Richardson and Lynn Redgrave.

One of the most familiar faces at Cannes, British director Ken Loach, is back with "Sweet Sixteen." Britain is also represented by Leigh with "All or Nothing," about a long weekend in a London working-class housing project, and Michael Winterbottom, with "24-Hour Party People."

Israeli director Amos Gitai, who presented "Kadosh" and "Kippur," is back for the third time in four years with "Kedma." Elia Suleiman, a Palestinian, presents "Intervention Divine."

"Here, the Cannes competition makes room for two films that are two acts of peace," said festival director Thierry Fremaux.

From Asia, South Korean director Im Kwon Taek, who presented the visually sumptuous "Chunhyang" in 2000, is back with "Chihwaseon." China is represented by Jia Zhang Ke's "Ren Xiao Yao (Unknown Pleasures)."

French films

Four French films are in the competition: "Demonlover" by Olivier Assayas; "Irreversible" by Gaspar Noe, with Monica Belluci and Vincent Cassel; "L'adversaire" by Nicole Garcia, with Daniel Auteuil; and "Marie-Jo et ses deux amours" by Robert Guediguian.

Kiarostami is back with "10," and the Dardenne brothers are presenting "Le Fils (The Son)."

Appearing out of competition, Woody Allen's latest film "Hollywood Ending," about a down-and-out director who goes to work for his ex (Tea Leoni), will open the festival—a coup for organizers who have long wanted to lure the reclusive New York filmmaker to the Riviera.

"And Now...Ladies and Gentlemen," by French director Claude Lelouch, will close the festival.

Actresses Sharon Stone and Michelle Yeoh will take part in the nine-member jury awarding the Palme d'Or, presided over by David Lynch, the famously quirky director of "Blue Velvet," "The Straight Story" and "Mulholland Drive."

There will be tributes to French filmmaker Jacques Tati and American Billy Wilder, and Martin Scorsese is expected to bring his actors—including Leonardo DiCaprio and Cameron Diaz—for a 20-minute screening of his long-awaited film "Gangs of New York." ***AP***

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1. For every P200 worth of ad placement booked starting April 25, 2002 until May 11, 2002 for the Inquirer Classifieds Mother's Day Special Section on May 12, 2002, the customer is entitled to receive one (1) raffle coupon to the Mom Makeover raffle.
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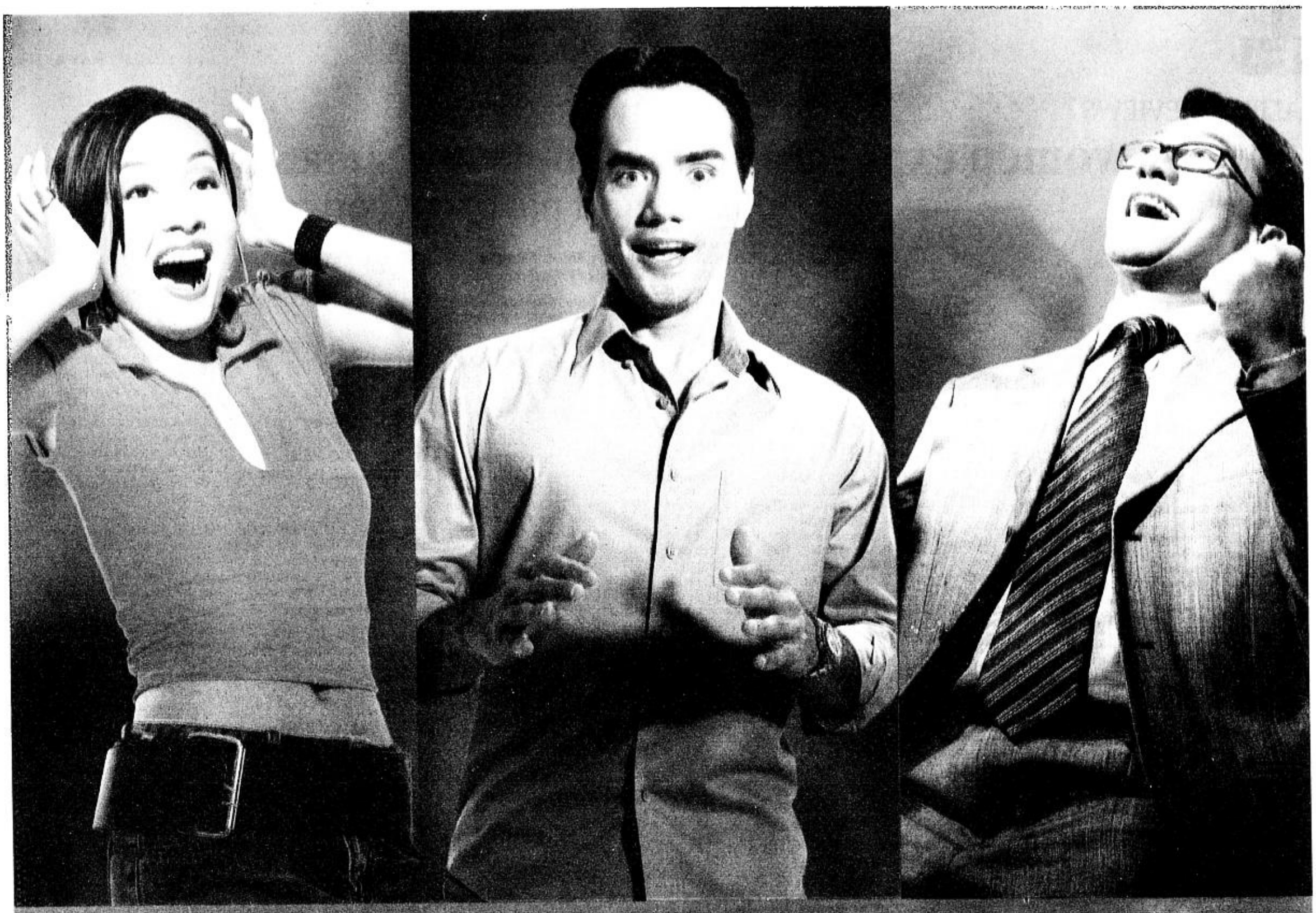

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ALBUM REVIEWS

Love as women experience it

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

"Bakit"
Sari
XAX Music

THIS ALBUM follows the *pangmasa* formula because it contains songs which herald pain, heartache and grief. While listening to "Bakit," it becomes apparent that Sari's music is an enviable cross between Mystica and Imelda Papin.

Difference

The only difference is that the songs here have a hint of sophistication and restraint. She's at her best when singing painful, intense *masa* love songs like "Bakit" and "Wag Na Wag."

Her performance in "Flowing" is relaxed yet in command. "You Are" is adventurous and interesting because it shows grit and spunk as it encourages us to love wholeheartedly without being too pushy, obnoxious and patriotic.

So far, so good. However, Sari is less convincing in the English ballad "Goodbye." The number lacks depth and confidence. Her voice breaks in spots and doesn't impart the sense of loneliness and longing that the song requires.

The album features good melodies which sometimes have depth and emotion. Though "Bakit" is uneven, it definitely shows much promise because of its combination of pop, folk and country music.

SARI. Songs of pain and grief.

"A New Day Has Come"
Celine Dion
Sony Music

You'll like this album if you want a dose of gushy love lyrics and sad songs that speak of broken promises. Of course Celine Dion can be sultry, sweet and gentle.

DION. Broken promises.

Mushy lyrics

"Have You Ever Been in Love" inspires and makes you believe that love can indeed go on forever. The melody is soothing and the lyrics are mushy. Finding and being with the right partner gives you a true sense of freedom, peace, joy and gratitude.

Hearing this song makes you crave for the kind of love that's quite hard to find these days: no demands, no expectations, just pure love.

"Right In Front of You" is sentimental and bittersweet. The song speaks of a true love that's not meant to be. The melody and lyrics can touch the heart without being melodramatic.

"I Surrender" makes you remember the kind of devotion you give your loved one when you're at the peak of being in love.

"I'm Alive" and "Ten Days" sing of joy and hurt as you go through the process of healing. The singing is laid-back and mellow but the words hit you when you least expect them to.

"At Last" and "Super Love" are personal and truthful. They inspire you to be grateful for the precious moments that you spend with your loved ones. Love usually comes unexpectedly; when you find it, hold on to it.

It's obvious that Celine likes a solid, soulful melody, as exhibited throughout the album.

"All Hits"
All Saints
Warner Music

This is cruising music at its best. Even if you're driving, you won't get distracted by the melodies, lyrics and vocal blending of Shaznay, Melanie, Natalie and Nicole. It's sweet pop and smooth R and B, mixed with their own spunky flavor.

In denial

"Lady Marmalade" is about knowing that a break-up is near, but the girl is in denial. She wants reassurance that her man will never leave her and she wants him to say "I love you." You'll feel the sadness and loneliness in the lyrics even if the melody is upbeat.

"Bootie Call" turns the tables around. Finally, girls don't appear to be lovesick fools anymore, but are heartbreakers themselves. Using girlish charms and true affection, a woman can manipulate her man.

"Never Ever" is again about unrequited love. The melody is good and has recall. After hearing it once, you're bound to hum it the entire day.

ALL SAINTS. Cruising music at its best.

"Black Coffee" shows that times have indeed changed. Not only does the girl make the first move, but she also reveals her true emotions by saying "I love you" first; along the way, she hopes to be loved and nurtured.

"Pure Shores" is about female bonding. It's carefree but serious, both innocent and witty. A song that makes you grateful for having true and loving friends.

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Cocoy Laurel shines in 'comeback and payback' concert at the Tent

By Mary Ann A. Bautista and Ricky T. Gallardo

COCOY Laurel's concert, "Journey of the Heart" at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio last April 26 attracted an SRO crowd. Cocoy happily declares that staging this concert was his way of thanking his loyal fans.

"This is my payback time. The voice I have is on loan and I feel very privileged, honored and happy that it was lent to me," Cocoy reveals.

Since songs make up a major part of his life, the show boasted of an extensive repertoire, which included a Beatles tribute, Cole Porter songs, disco medley, OPM tunes and "La Vie En Rose," an anthem of sorts for Cocoy.

"These are the songs that mean a lot to me. They're cornerstones in my life," he beams. More than the memories, Cocoy's loving interpretation of the songs touched the hearts of listeners.

"Love is the greatest commandment and yet war and violence today are so against it. Music is a very powerful instrument and I'd like to use it as a vehicle to release good energy and counter anger and hate. I don't know how things work in the universe but this is my little contribution," Cocoy intones.

Marissa Sanchez at Hyatt

Marissa seems to be an unlikely lounge singer because of her buxom frame and irreverent humor. But she has turned these into assets, completing the saucy package with her good singing voice.

In the beginning, her plump frame got in the way of her singing ambition. She auditioned for Rudy Francisco at the Hyatt's Calesa Bar and was turned down twice because she was too big. Rudy advised her to lose weight. She lost 15 pounds then came back for an audition. "I sang 'Evergreen' and Tito Rudy was impressed and asked me to do comedy nights with them," Marissa shares.

LAUREL. Songs that touch the heart.

Marissa is bubbly and spontaneous so her "Songs in the Key of C-omedy" on May 6 and 13 at the Calesa Music Bar at the Hyatt promises to be a blast.

Regine sings for Bantay Bata

Regine Velasquez has been crowned as the Box Office Queen due to the huge success of "Pangako Ikaw Lang" last year. This is her third hit with Viva Films after "Dahil May Isang Ikaw" and "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw." She attributes her success to her audience and to luck.

"It's really surprising because I did some comedies before but they didn't click with the audience. It's when I started doing love stories that my movies were appreciated and accepted.

"It helped that I also moved to Viva Records which released the original soundtrack albums of my movies. Sometimes even before my movie is shown, the public is already familiar with the songs in it and this helps in the movie's promotion," Regine observes.

She recently appeared in her first concert produced by ABS-CBN, "One Night with Regine Velasquez" held at the front steps of the National Museum on Friday, April 26. Is this a signal that she'll soon move to ABS-CBN?

"No I'm still doing 'S.O.P.' on GMA-7 and 'Star for a Night' with Viva-TV. I don't think there's anything wrong with maintaining a good relationship with ABS-CBN especially if it's for a good cause," she clarifies.

Ara Mina likes a challenge

GMA-7 introduced the members of the cast of its newest soap opera, "Kung Mawawala Ka" at Ara Mina's restaurant, Osteria. This is Ara's first soap opera, seen weekdays on GMA-7 at 8:30 p.m. She plays a *contrabida* who steals her half-sister's boyfriend. Why did she decide to shift from sweet to bad?

"There's a valid reason why I'm stealing Sunshine's (Dizon) boyfriend away from her. I hate her because she's our daddy's favorite. But later on I'll have a change of heart and be kinder," Ara shares.

Robin's continuing journey

He describes his life as a continuing journey, the mistakes he's made as lessons learned the hard way, and his phenomenal rise as a movie icon as the biggest surprise of all.

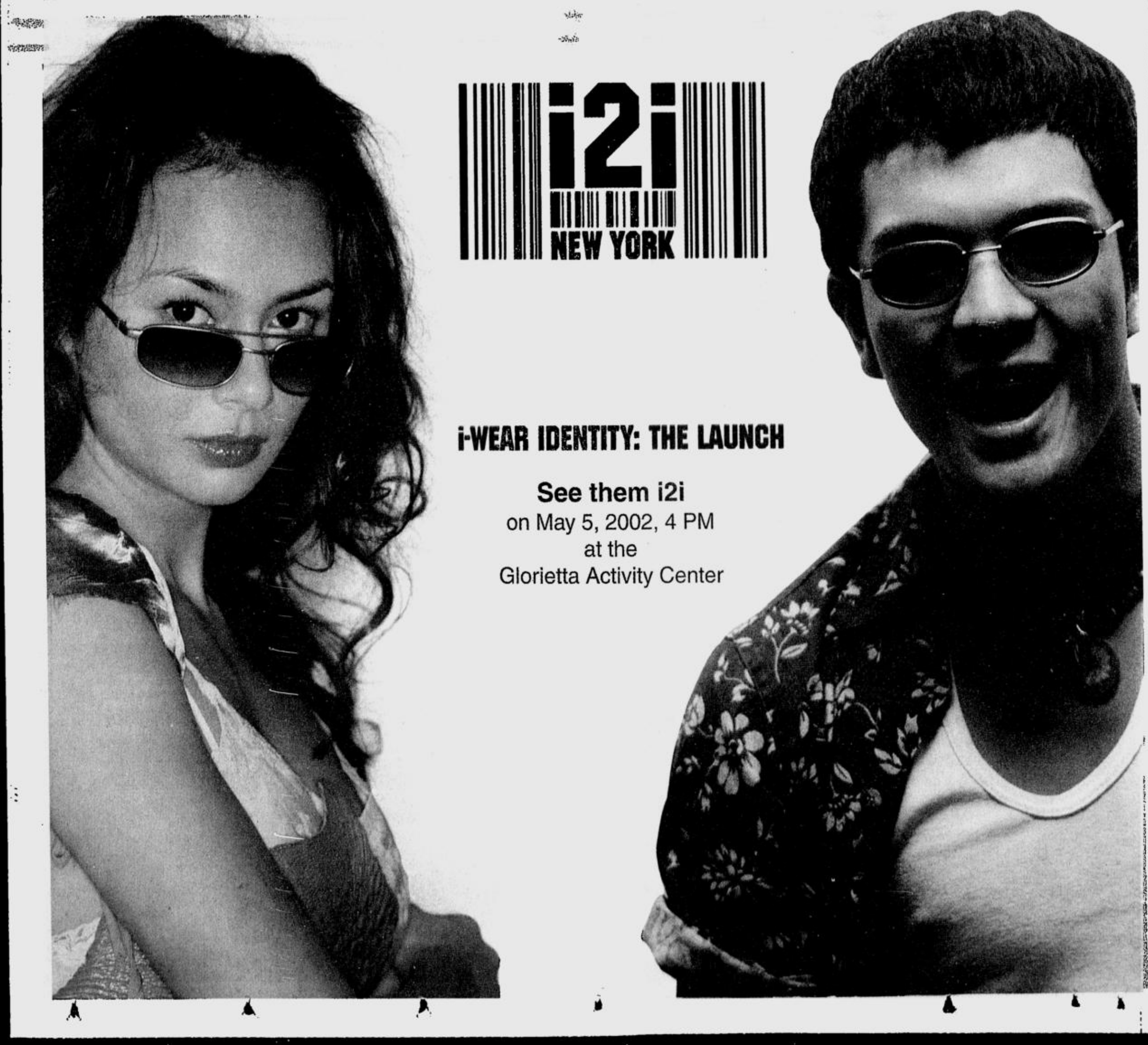
Robin Padilla sounded profound when we spoke to him recently.

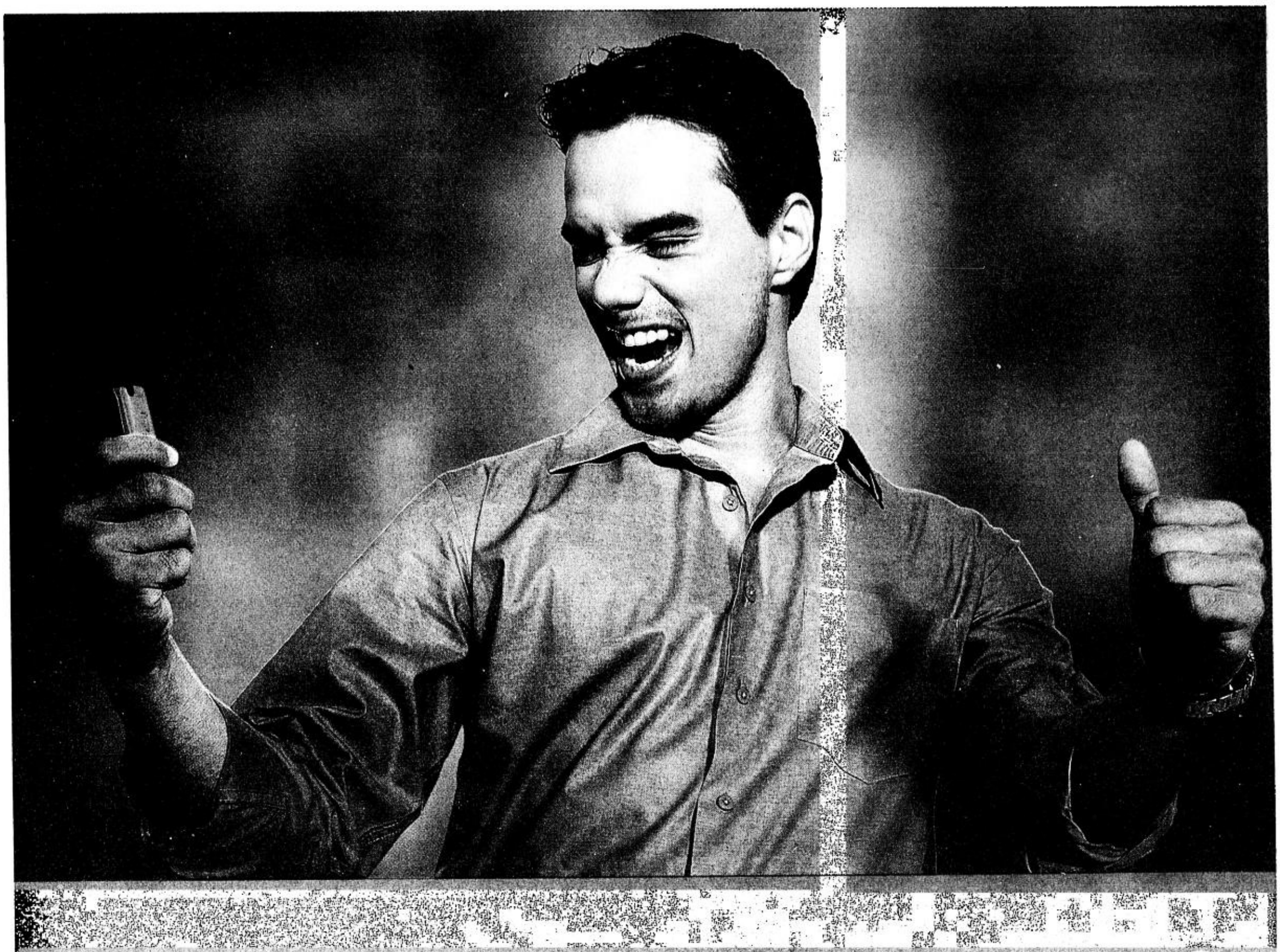
"I guess I've mellowed," he intones, "*Mas malinaw na sa akin kung ano talaga ang mahalaga sa buhay ng tao; sa dami ba naman ng pinagdaanan ko.*"

When we delved deeper into his thoughts, we learned that he credits Islam for teaching him to value life and his wife Liezel.

Padilla is bent on really finishing his criminology course, with only a few units left before finally getting his diploma. "*Gusto kong maging* example *na kapag binigyan tayo ng* second chance *sa buhay, dapat nating alagaan ito.*"

Padilla hopes that "Videoke King" will do well at the box office, admitting that his last film which paired him with Angelika de la Cruz did "below our expectations." "*Iba ito, napakanta nila ako dito.* It's a fun film. *Masaya. Garantisado.*"





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Nokia 6510	18,000	17,000	16,000	15,000	13,000	17,000	15,000	12,000	8,500	4,500	—	—	—	—	18,000	17,000	16,000	15,000	13,000	17,000	15,000	14,500	13,500	11,500	10,500	9,500	7,500	6,000	4,000
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Screen heartthrobs: Owen Wilson and Anson Mount

BRITNEY Spears is one of this column's most-requested celebrities. But, the week "Crossroads" hit our screens, her leading man, Anson Mount, started getting his own set of admirers, who asked us if he is more than just another pretty-faced, bad-boy type *himbo*. Apparently not. One well-liked heartthrob who is a self-confessed "bad boy" is Owen Wilson. Proof? His nose.

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

Write us: Philippine Daily Inquirer; Saturday Special section, Showbiz Q and A, Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo sts., Makati City. This week's Q and A:

"I am a fan of Britney Spears. But I watched her movie, "Crossroads," three times not because of her, but because of her dreamy leading man. Where did Anson Mount come from? Please say he is not just another pretty face!"– *Anna Karine Coo, Pasig City*

The good news is, no, Anson Mount is *not* just another pretty face. If Britney got her training from the Mickey Mouse Club, this guy got his in the theatre *and* the academe. And he is no bad boy, either!

Only child

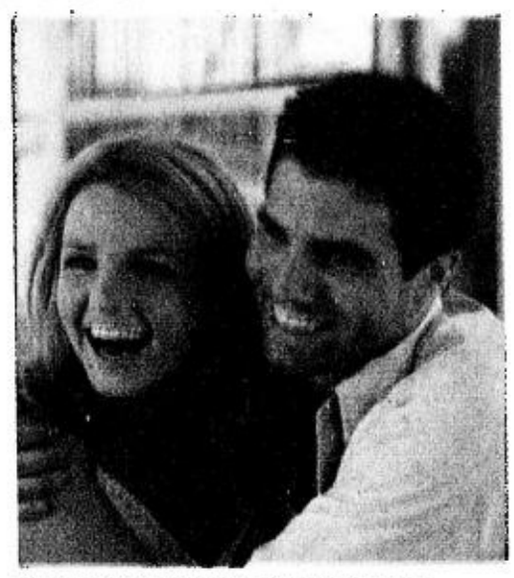
The 29-year-old blue-eyed, bedimpled heartthrob was born Anson Mount IV in Illinois in Feb 23, and has a Master of Fine Arts (in Acting) degree from Columbia University. He is the only child of professional golfer Nancy Smith and Playboy's sports editor Anson Mount II.

"Crossroads," where he played Ben, may have been his ticket to mainstream audiences, but he has appeared in a number of big-screen features in the past— Ben Affleck's "Boiler Room;" Christopher Walken's "Poolhall Junkies;" the slasher, "Urban Legends: Final Cut," and as the lead in the Sundance favorite, "The Truth About Tully."

His next movie, "City by the Sea," is even more impressive because, in it he will act alongside heavyweights Robert de Niro, Frances McDormand and Patti LuPone.

He recently completed his directorial debut, a silent short called "Nose," in which he starred opposite stage/film actor Alan Cumming. He also appeared in a "Sex and the City" episode, "20-*something* Girls vs. 30-*something* Women," and in an "Ally McBeal" episode, "Civil War."

WILSON. Known for his high-pitched drawl and broken nose.



MOUNT (right) with Britney Spears.

It was while he guested in "Sex and the City" that Britney saw him and decided he would be perfect for the part of Benin ``Crossroads." He did a take of their first kissing scene with a mouthful of minced garlic to play a practical joke on Britney, but ever the nice gal that she is, she didn't throw a tantrum.

Surprised

He recalls, "I was so surprised — she didn't crack a smile until the cameras turned off. I said, 'Did you taste that?' She started laughing and said, 'Yes, but I wasn't going to say anything because I thought you'd eaten something. I didn't want to be mean!' Now I feel bad." How nice.

He likes quirky directors Wes Anderson, David Lynch and Peter Greenaway (in whose next movie he has a part). We have seen the works of these directors (especially Greenaway and, to a lesser degree, Lynch) and, take out word for it, their themes *are* quirky *and* scary!

Performances

However, Anson's most impressive claims to fame are his theatrical triumphs. No acting patsy, this one! He was critically acclaimed for his performances in "The Caucasian Chalk Circle" and "Cymbeline," and won a 1998 Drama League Award for his performance as Joshua in the controversial staging of Terrence McNally's "Corpus Christi," on the gay 'divinity.'

The play was panned by critics. New York Post describes it as "*utterly devoid of moral seriousness or artistic integrity.*" New York Times quips, "*We sympathize with the intent but the execution is totally artless! The excitement ended at the metal detectors.* (Metal detectors had to be installed outside the theatre where protesters picketed the performances.)

But Anson's performance was singularly praised. (On the local front, we heard that a major university-based theatre group already owns the rights to "Corpus Christi," and will stage it by the end of the year.)

* * *

"Owen Wilson is a fascinating and charming actor to watch. I've seen him in "Behind Enemy Lines," "Zoolander," "Shanghai Noon" and "The Royal Tenenbaums," the latter with his cute brother, Luke. Please tell me more about him." – *Nicky, Davao*

Owen Cunningham Wilson was born on Nov 18, 1968 in Dallas, Texas to a photographer mother and an ad executive father. He is the second of three boys: the eldest (37) is Andrew III, and the youngest (30) is Luke ("Legally Blonde," "Charlie's Angels"). All three boys acted in Wes Anderson's debut, the Sundance hit, "Bottle Rocket," which Owen co-wrote with Anderson.

Expelled

A self-proclaimed trouble-maker, Owen was expelled from St. Mark's Academy in 10th grade for cheating in geometry. He finished sophomore year in Thomas Jefferson School, then studied in a military academy in New Mexico.

He attended the University of Texas at Austin (he majored in English), where he met his future mentor and partner, Wes Anderson, as his roommate in senior year. They wrote the script for "Bottle Rocket" that eventually landed on James L. Brooks' lap. He liked it and gave them $5 M to make it into a feature film.

The 5'11" lefty has been romantically linked with Winona Ryder and singer Sheryl Crow (remember "All I Wanna Do"?). He won praise for his scripts for "Rushmore," "Bottle Rocket" and "The Royal Tenenbaums," which earned him and Anderson Oscar, Bafta and Writers' Guild nominations for best original script.

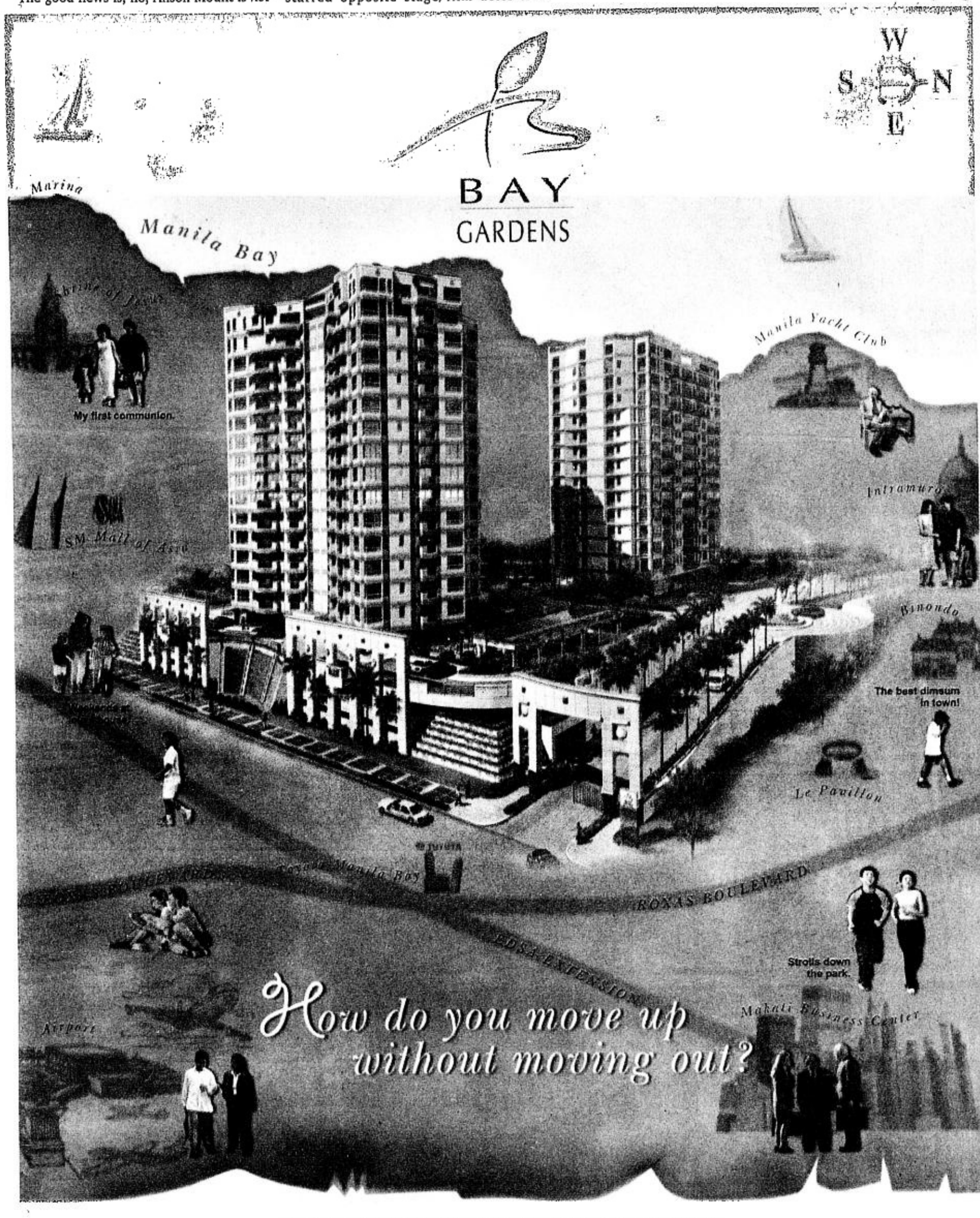
His films include, "The Cable Guy," "Anaconda," "Armageddon," "Breakfast of Champions," "Permanent Midnight," "The Haunting," "The Minus Man," "Meet the Parents," "Zoolander," "Shanghai Noon," "The Royal Tenenbaums" and "Behind Enemy Lines."

Next starrers

His next starrers will be with Eddie Murphy (a big-screen version of the '60s TV series, "I Spy") and with Jackie Chan and Gemma Jones (as Queen Victoria) in "Shanghai Knights," the follow-up to the hit "Shanghai Noon," where the unlikely duo takes on Jack the Ripper in 1880s London. He was paid $2 M for "Zoolander," and $3 M for "Behind Enemy Lines."

He is known for two things: his high-pitched drawl that makes him seem at once sleepy, surprised and seductive, *and* his broken nose. As for the ubiquitous nose, he broke it *twice*—first, in 9th grade, and second, while playing intramural football at the University of Texas.

When asked if he had considered having it fixed, Owen says, "I must look like a freak, but if I were to change it, I would get so much grief from my brothers!" Oh, *brothers*!



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Local soaps and foreign telenovelas compared

By Noelani Torre

THERE'S no denying the long, ongoing love affair that we Filipinos have with that television phenomenon known as the soap opera. Practically everybody—young and old, educated and uneducated, from the society *matrona* to her maid—avidly follows the goings-on in the lives of soap opera characters.

Mystery

"Actually, I don't like soaps," a friend of ours said. "They're dumb. But I still watch them, anyway. I don't know why, it's a mystery!"

Indeed. Maybe he was just trying to excuse away his decidedly un-macho affliction. But he's not the only one seemingly puzzled by an inexplicable viewing choice.

We've heard people grumbling about the "overdone" melodrama and too-intricate plot twists of soap operas--the same people who know the *bida's* entire history and what the *kontrabida* is up to next!

It may be a mystery, or it may be just a bunch of people who don't want to admit that they like what they watch!

In any case, soap operas have their loyal viewers—those who prefer watching our local offerings, those who opt for the Latin American telenovelas that have been TV mainstays for the past few years, and those who like viewing both. Wondering whether there really was a difference between the two (fans from both camps say yes, and that their choice is better), we asked folks from the third group to compare local and foreign soaps. Here are their responses:

"*Sa* Filipino soaps, *ang dami-daming* characters! *'Pag 'di ka nakapanood ng isang linggo, 'di mo na kilala yung mga taong nakikita mo sa* TV. *Sa* Latin American shows, at least *may* focus *pa rin sa* main character.

"*Kung minsan, sa* local soaps, *ang tagal-tagal na ng kuwento pero hindi pa rin matapos-tapos, tulad ng* 'Anna Karenina.' *Mas matagal sila sa* foreign soaps, *mas* dragging. *Kung minsan, gumagawa pa yung mga* writer *ng paraan para humaba pa ang kuwento, pero na-o-*obvious *naman yung* efforts *nila. May mga pampahabang* twist *din sa* foreign soaps *pero mas* relevant *ang mga 'to.*

"In a way, *isa sa mga nagpapaganda sa* Mexican soaps *ay ang* dubbing. *Nakakatawa kasing pakinggan ang mga* exaggerated *na boses tsaka yung* translated dialogue. *Nasa* plot *tsaka* characters *ang pagkakapareho ng dalawa. Pareho silang may mababait na* main characters, *mga mahihirap na yayaman,* etc."—***Marie Grace, 18.***

Convoluted plots

"What I've noticed about soap operas, be they local or foreign, is that they have extremely convoluted plots. The stories include scores of characters and some of the most implausible situations I have ever come across.

"In terms of complexity of the stories, I would have to say that our local soaps surpass the foreign ones. The scripts for our local soaps have almost perfected the ability of stretching out a story until a lot of holes appear in its fabric.

"Another similarity that comes to mind is that most of the characters manage to live in a highly emotional state and get embroiled in fantastically dangerous situations without suffering even one nervous breakdown! Highly unrealistic. But then again, most people probably wouldn't be entertained by watching their dull daily routine on TV."—***Lawrence Mercado, 31.***

More appealing

"*Sa* characters, *mas* appealing *sa Pinoy, kasi may pangit at may maganda. Malalaman mo kung sino yung bida at kung sino yung kontrabida. Sa* Mexican *kasi, lahat sila magaganda, di ba? 'Di mo alam kung sino talaga sa kanila ang masama.*

"*Sa* set, *yung* Latin American *laging mukhang* fake *kasi sa* studio *sila nagshu-*shoot. *Sa Pinoy naman, mismong bahay yung ginagamit kaya mas* realistic. *At kaya patok na patok.*

"*Siguro* factor *din na* dubbed *ang* Latin American soaps. *Hindi na kasi totoo ang dating, hindi* realistic.

"*Meron silang* similarities *sa* story, *pero mas nakakaantig ang sa Pinoy kasi alam nila kung ano ang hinahanap ng* viewers *dito. Ang sa* Mexican *kasi, mababaw. Mas may* relevance *sa atin ang mga Pinoy* soaps, *kasi meron talagang koneksiyon. Sa* Latin American *kasi, iba ang itsura nila—masyado silang maganda!—so paano ka makaka-*empathize?"—***Melanie Mychelle Dunham, 18.***

We've heard people grumbling about the 'overdone' melodrama of soap operas--the same people who know the 'bida's' entire history and what the 'kontrabida' is up to next!

More sexually aggressive

"Mexican soaps are more sexually aggressive—their kissing scenes, love scenes, etc. They treat sex as par for the course and they show it more frequently. The subject isn't tackled much in our local soaps.

"They have the same formulas—*di mo alam kung sino yung ama, may nawawalang anak, may sumabog, may nabuntis na hindi pala totoo,* etc. If I were made to choose, I'd choose Mexican soaps, because they're more open about sexuality."—***Rebecca Fuentes, 28.***

Faster-paced

"They're just the same. The only difference is that local soaps are longer and 'heavier,' and foreign telenovelas are faster-paced and lighter. You laugh more when you're watching the Spanish soaps.

"Their stories are similar—rags-to-riches, mistaken identity, people who come back from the dead, and so on. Their heroines are usually the same, also--pretty and good, almost saintly!"—***Marc Philip Ebreo, 21.***

SOAPS like the imported "Monica Brava" (top photo) and the locally-produced "Pangako Sa 'Yo" are top-raters on television.

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The Rock rolls between wrestling, movies and family life

THE ROCK'S "Conan the Barbarian"-style brawn inspired Universal to gamble on "Scorpion King."

By Anthony Breznican

LOS ANGELES—To understand The Rock, you have to break him into three pieces.

First there's his World Wrestling Federation persona, also nicknamed "The People's Champ," a body-slamming muscleman known for raising his eyebrow suggestively and snarling wisecracks that whip crowds of thousands into a frenzy.

Acoustic guitar

Then there's Dwayne Johnson, who turns 30 in May, a former college football player who laughs easily, plays acoustic guitar in his spare time and dotes on his wife of four years and their daughter.

"I always say that The Rock is just Dwayne Johnson with the volume turned up to its highest level," he said. "As wild and as loud and as passionate as my fans get, I feed off that same energy."

Finally, there's "The Scorpion King," his ancient warrior character from "The Mummy Returns," whose martial-arts swordplay and "Conan the Barbarian"-style brawn inspired Universal Pictures to gamble on a spin-off film.

"The Scorpion King" represents the future of The Rock, a chance to break away from the bone-wracking showmanship of the WWF and move into films—where at least you get a stunt double some of the time.

Live audience

"A lot of people at this point say, 'Man, you've already done everything in wrestling,' but it's not easy to give up what you love," he said. "My role will lessen—it's already lessened—but there's nothing better than the love of a live audience . . . I might not do (wrestling) full time forever, but it's something I don't think I'll ever give up completely."

But wrestling is all-consuming, requiring weekly travel from city to city, endless training and rehearsals (yes, it's all staged), and a substantial physical toll on the body.

When flinging yourself off the top ropes and landing on your back in the ring, it's best to make you legs, arms and backside as flat as possible, he said. That way the limbs absorb much of the shock, and your spine doesn't break.

But it still hurts.

"It's theatrics. You know who's going to win, you know who's going to lose and there are scripts, but nonetheless, it's still me," he said. "It's kind of like doing stunt scenes all day everyday."

Although his father, Rocky Johnson, and grandfather, Peter Maivia, both were pro wrestlers, he had planned to be a football star. He became a defensive tackle at the University of Miami and graduated with a degree in criminology, but injuries kept him out of the National Football League.

That's when he adopted the wrestling pseudonym Rocky Maivia, which he eventually shortened to The Rock. By his mid-20s, he had become one of the WWF's biggest stars.

Virtuous hero

In the world of wrestling, The Rock is considered a "fan favorite," a virtuous hero audiences cheer while he pummels villainous rivals such as Triple H and Hulk Hogan.

Tournaments draw upward of 20,000 people, most of whom realize the sport is fake. The attraction of wrestling is the burlesque personalities—the more volatile the better—and the sense of goofy comedy and lawless brawling.

Even Vince McMahon—the 56-year-old owner and impresario of the WWF—is known to jump into the ring to punch out his employees and take a few body-slams in kind.

McMahon technically owns the intellectual property rights to The Rock and has the power to determine when and how the character is used, according to Johnson.

In "The Scorpion King," Johnson is credited as The Rock, and McMahon has an executive producer credit for freeing Johnson from wrestling dates to shoot the movie and offering notes on what WWF fans will expect from the film.

But Johnson likes the name Rock, and that's what he prefers friends call him in private. The rights to that name may be a source of contention someday between the two, but not now.

"He knows my goals and has been real supportive," Johnson said.

Universal Pictures is hoping "The Scorpion King" will turn into a franchise similar to its lucrative "Mummy" films, and Johnson is negotiating to appear in a new action-comedy for the studio this summer.

Humor

He's eager to star in a comedy, too, saying humor helped jump-start his film career.

An appearance on "Saturday Night Live" in 2000 featured the 6-foot-5 (1.95-meter), 250-pound (113-kilogram) entertainer playing the monkey father of the Chris Kattan's comic simian "Mr. Peepers." He also sported lipstick and a dress in a "Ladies Man" skit, and crooned "Are You Lonesome Tonight" with two fellow wrestlers singing backup.

That performance and his work in "The Mummy Returns" led Universal Pictures chief Stacey Snider and producer Kevin Misher to create "The Scorpion King" as a starring vehicle for The Rock.

Kelly Hu, best known for TV's "Martial Law," plays a seductive sorceress in "The Scorpion King" and attributed The Rock's success to his blend of machismo and charm.

"The Rock is a guy's guy, he loves joking around and he's tough. Guys love that," Hu said. "And women love him because he has that gentle way about him as well, and he's sexy and he's beautiful and he's macho. He's got everything it takes."

Debut

Following the debut of "The Scorpion King," The Rock will disappear for a while. He said he's looking forward to vacationing with his wife, Dany, and their 8-month-old daughter, Simone, at their Miami home.

"That little baby girl is very gorgeous and she's going to have him wrapped around her finger," said Michael Clarke Duncan, co-star of "The Scorpion King" and a friend of Johnson's for five years.

She's the one thing that makes The Rock go soft.

"With everything I've ever done in my life, I have a sense that nothing will ever be better than this," he said. "Very little is ever guaranteed in life, but I can be sure that I'll always take care of my daughter." *AP*

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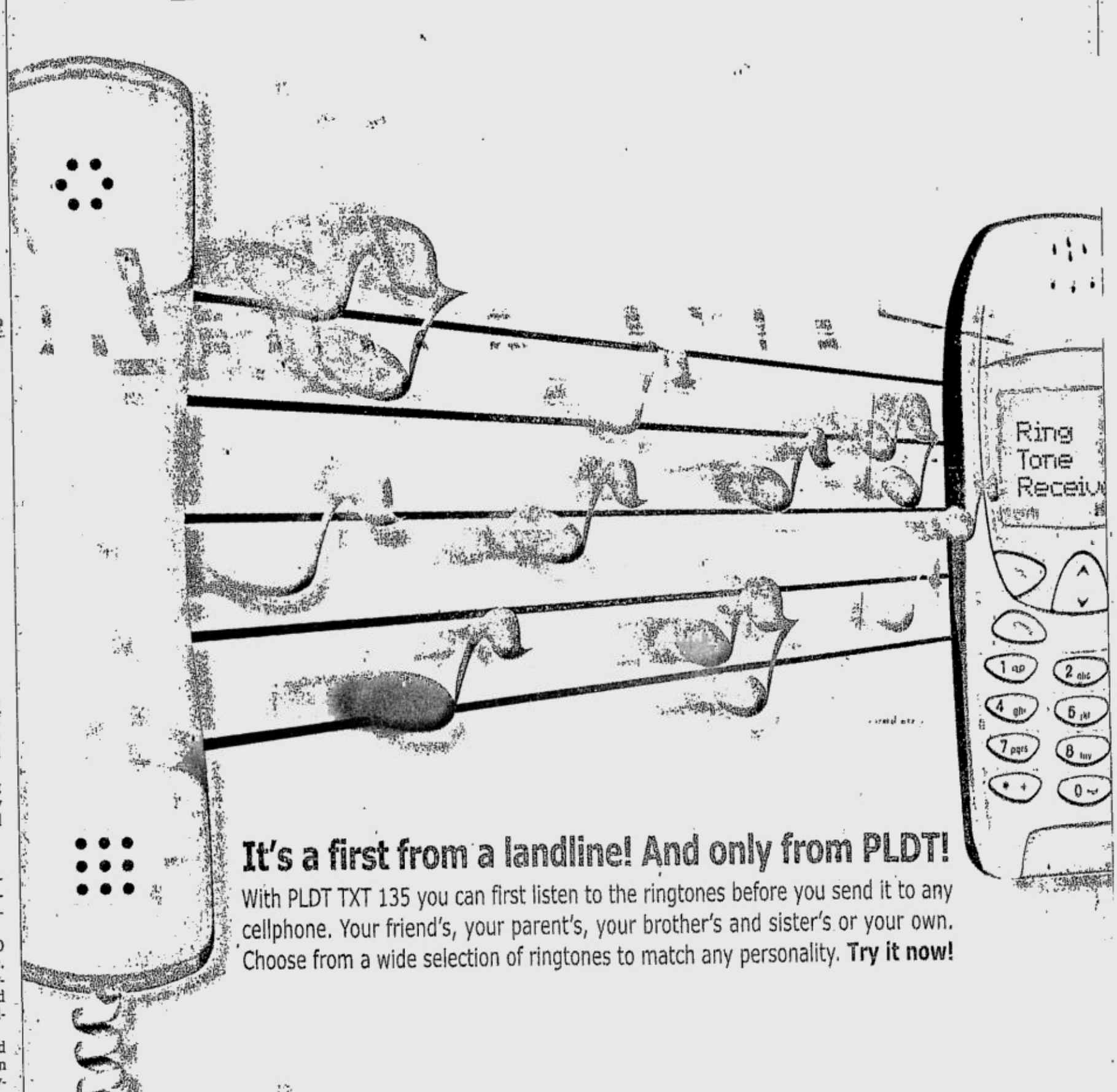

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Nora and Vilma, apart and together

By Nestor U. Torre

IN the '70s and '80s, the big stellar rivalry in local show biz was between Nora Aunor and Vilma Santos. The two female superstars have had quite a history together, and their instructive relationship remains interesting to this day.

Child star

In the '70s, Vilma had a head start because she first entered show biz as a child star. By the time she became a teen star and was competing head-on with Nora, Vilma was already an established name and crowd drawer.

And yet, the phenomenal Aunor quickly upstaged her. After Nora became the darling of the masses, Vilma had to cope with the harsh reality of playing second fiddle to the brash upstart who had captivated the nation with her golden voice, expressive eyes and volatile temperament.

In those days, it looked like Nora could do no wrong. Even if she made quickie films, they would win awards over Vilma's better-executed starrers. After years of this unfair competition, Vilma decided to stop playing the also-ran, and opted to essay the roles that Nora preferred not to do—the other woman, rape victim, burlesque dancer, etc.

AUNOR AND SANTOS. Solid friendship.

Vilma's "sexy" movies were more suggestive than anything else, but they gave her a new screen persona that made her a distinct movie entity from Nora.

Fact is, Nora could also have played sensual characters, but she felt awkward doing so, and Vilma benefited from her reticence. In time, Vilma was also winning acting awards and starring in big hits, so the competition between her and Nora peaked.

Then, in the '80s, Nora's personal problems affected her career, while the more professional Vilma became producers' actress of choice. Nobody doubted Nora's talent, but Vilma had talent *and* professionalism, so she soon streaked in front of her archrival.

No longer did she compete in areas where she was *dehado*, like singing. Instead, she stressed her dancing ability, sensuality and versatility, and truly came into her own.

Political phase

Then came the two rivals' "political" phase, with Nora successfully boosting Joseph Estrada to the presidency while losing her own bid as governor. On the other hand, Vilma supported her husband's bid for the senate *and* won as mayor of Lipa City. Even in politics, she showed that she had the edge.

That's where the two rival superstars are today—Vilma flying high, while Nora is still trying to get her act together for the nth time. We wager, however, that if Nora regains her focus and determination, she can still give Vilma and other veteran female stars a run for their popularity and awards.

First salvo

Nora's new public service show on TV could be the first salvo in her current bid for recognition and respect in show biz. For her part, Vilma needs to give more importance to her acting career, which she's tended to neglect in favor of her political obligations.

The interesting thing is, all these years, the two archrivals have actually gone beyond competitiveness, and have forged a solid friendship, even if it is one between opposites. The competition has just given added excitement to their "joint" careers and motivated their respective fans to support them with greater zeal.

And both Nora and Vilma have become excellent actresses who still have a number of great performances left in them. May we see some of those memorable new portrayals on the big screen this year. Even better, Nora and Vilma should make another one of their infrequent films together. Now, that would be a great viewing experience that no local film buff would want to miss!

SWITCHING CHANNELS

Pinky Amador in real-life soap opera

By Edmund L. Sicam

ACTRESS Pinky Amador, a familiar face on TV because of her frequent guest appearances on soaps and teledramas, finds herself in a real-life soap opera. Sometime last year, she made the down payment on a condo unit, religiously paid her monthly installment, and by February this year, she was able to move in.

Sometime in March, however, she found out from a newspaper ad that all the condo units in the building had already been foreclosed by a bank, which in effect, now owned her unit.

On the advice of her lawyer, she stopped her monthly payment and instead opened an escrow account with the bank while the foreclosure case was still being decided by the courts. It was to this account that she would deposit her payments. She wrote the management about her move but got rebuffed. She was told that her monthly payments should still be made to them.

Last April 19, Pinky went to her unit after a tiring day to prepare for a trip. She found out, to her horror, that her utilities (lights and phone line) had been cut off. She had no choice but to move out of her unit, and she now stays a few nights at a time with relatives and friends. She has sued the developers.

That's additional pressure for the actress who has to contend with her many acting assignments and review work for the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board. For now, she hopes that like most soaps, this one will have a happy ending.

"HIGH TIMES." Something for lovers of reggae music.

Tropical dance music

Zamboanga television is not the ideal place to launch an album but that's exactly what XAX Music Entertainment did to promote its latest release, "High Times." The reason, as explained by record producers Dr. Wes Sech aka Francis de Veyra and Rev. D.A. Mograsse aka Jimmy D. L. Barinaga, is that the carrier single is called "Taliban Ban." You guessed right, it lampoons the Talibans who used to be the dominant force in Afghanistan but have been sent packing by the American forces. Since many GIs are now in Mindanao, Rarinaga decided to cash in on their presence. XAX has a reggae dance contest on a regional station of ABS-CBN with "Taliban Ban" accompanying the dancers' steps.

The single is about a Pakistani whose music gets banned by the Talibans before they are booted out. It has a catchy reggae beat that lends itself well to dance parties. Although many of the tunes have the reggae beat, De Veyra and Rarinaga would rather refer to the cuts as tropical dance music.

Most of the selections were composed by Toto Pineda and Zandro Urbiztondo and interpreted by ZTO, which stands for Zandro, Toto and others. At the Xaymaca Bar in Timog Ave., where the press was invited to the album's launch in Metro Manila, we expected ZTO to perform. Instead, we were told that, unlike other albums, this launch would focus more on the music than the singers. So while "Taliban Ban" and the "Maglalatik"-inspired "Coconut" blared, an all-male dance group showed us their moves.

One of the cuts that attracted us was "Hey Donita," which is obviously a paean to the MTV VJ: "Hey Donita/Take me, Chiquita/Make me margarita/If only in my dreams/Night and day dreams/You got me captive from the start/I only live to see/You play the jockey part/Fill my empty heart with MTV." (We learned that one of he composers is absolutely crazy about Donita Rose but hasn't met her yet.)

We spoke to the two producers before the official launch. Barinaga is also XAX's A&R manager, which means he gets to choose which singers the company will record, and promotes them accordingly.

Because of the highly-competitive nature of the business, Barinaga feels that his small outfit should go into niche marketing, in this case, dance music. The bigger record companies have the edge because of their big-name stars while XAX wants to explore areas ignored by the majors.

De Veyra, who is the brother of semi-retired journalist Lourd de Veyra of Radioactive Sago fame, took up formal lessons at the UP College of Music but has discovered the appeal of pop music. He is also a member of Radioactive Sago.

'Amazing Nights at the Tent' clicks anew with music lovers

TRANSFORM a place in the heart of the city into a lavishly decorated interior setting, add a dash of personalized service and excellent food choices, blend in a hypnotizing musical performance by the musical industry's best artists, and the memorable result is intimate musical experience titled "Amazing Nights at the Tent."

Last April 10, the NBC Tent was home for the second time to this exclusive once-a-month performance produced by Butterfly Productions and presented by Smart Communications Inc. (Smart).

Inspired

Maestro Ryan Cayabyab (Mr. C), the country's renowned artist/composer, was truly inspired to play beautiful music that evening as he was joined by Anna Fegi and Bituin Escalante.

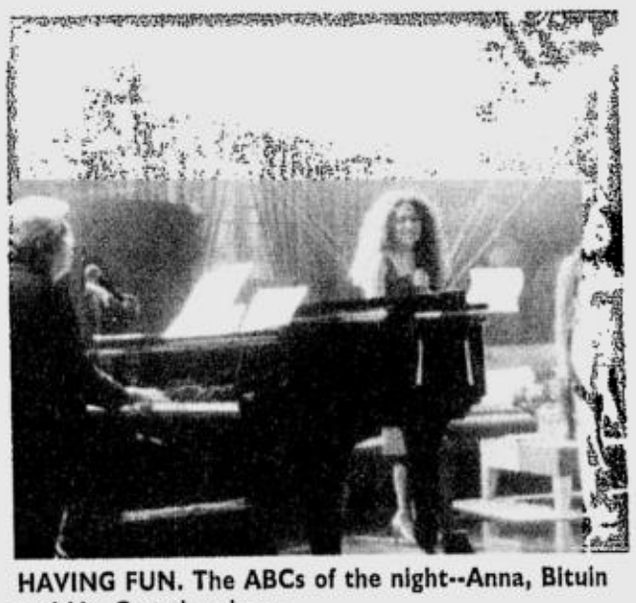
Mr. C opened the show by indulging the audience with familiar pop, OPM and musical-theater songs. Ever the interactive performer, he cajoled the crowd into singing with him as he played the piano.

Love and life

Anna Fegi and Bituin Escalante sang about love and life. Fegi was elated to be reunited with Mr. C,her mentor from her Smokey Mountain days. Escalante sang mesmerizing jazz standards, blues, soul, R and B, and pop with Anna.

Carol Banawa made an impromptu appearance, as a prelude of her own "Amazing Nights at the Tent" stint this month.

INGENUES. Bituin Escalante and Anna Fegi express themselves in a soulful performance.



HAVING FUN. The ABCs of the night--Anna, Bituin and Mr. C at the piano.

Guests

Smart's Mon Isberto joined in welcoming VIP subscribers and guests such as Elvira Rodriguez, Carmela Ongsiako Isabela, Emilia Cruz and Corey Gomez.

Eduardo Puno and wife Loretta gamely posed at the "sold out" sign at the lounge with Smart VIP representatives Belen Salonga and Valerie Anne Reyes. Similarly, Smart's VIP representative Bebet Medina assisted Coro Ventoza, Zeny and Lizzie Razon.

On May 8, "Amazing Nights at the Tent" will weave its musical magic anew, this time with Carol Banawa and Ogie Alcasid.

ALL sold out! Eduardo and Loretto Puno (left) with SMART's Belen Salonga and Val Reyes.

ABS-CBN Broadcasting family is 15 years old

WHEN ABS-CBN Broadcasting went back on-air in 1986 after a 14-year hiatus during Martial Law, the once dominant network literally started from scratch. Boasting of the most modern broadcasting center in Asia before it was taken over by the Marcos government in 1973, ABS-CBN could hardly salvage its equipment when it was returned to the Lopez family by the Aquino administration.

Vision

But Lopez patriarch, Eugenio Lopez Jr., himself jailed by Marcos on trumped-up charges, persevered. It was his vision of reviving the network not just for profits but more so for public service that inspired hundreds of pre-martial law ABS-CBN employees and fresh new talents to join the struggling network.

ABS-CBN resumed commercial operations in October 1986, "sharing" Broadcast Center with government-owned People's Television 4 (which was then occupying three-fourths of the compound). They leased from the government broadcasting equipment and facilities that rightfully belonged to them in the first place.

Getting back was never easy but, after some initial setbacks, ABS-CBN dramatically zoomed to the top less than a year after resuming operations. Since 1988, ABS-CBN has remained No. 1 in terms of audience share, advertising revenue, and coverage reach.

Awardees

Recently, the network gave out Service Awards to its employees who have reached 15, 10 and 5 years of service to the company. Among the 15-year awardees was the chairman and CEO himself, Eugenio Lopez III .

Cindy de Leon, now ABS-CBN's vice president for creative communications management, started as a 21-year-old junior copywriter in 1986. "It wasn't a luxurious beginning. We had no computers—and we had no furniture, either," laughs Cindy. "We sat on the floor because the office didn't have enough chairs!"

Editing video materialize was also an ordeal. "Back then we had only two editing machines, both of which we had to share with the News Department come 3 p.m. because they had to use them for the 6 p.m. broadcast. And since they were used around the clock, they had the tendency to overheat. We were reduced to fanning the machines to get them to work!" she recalls.

But they were all driven by one goal—to make ABS-CBN No.1 again. "More than anything, we did it for Mr. Geny Lopez, because he really did take care of us," Cindy recalls.

Own memories

Radio and TV reporter Vic de Leon Lima has his own memories of those early ABS-CBN days: "Our service vehicles had to be pushed to get them started. Our radios lost their signal the moment we got of the compound."

However, he wouldn't trade his experience as reporter for the network as he recalls the events he covered, many of them unforgettable. He reported from sites of great drama including the many coups weathered by the Aquino administration, the Pinatubo eruption, the Davao Penal Colony massacre, and the catastrophic Baguio City earthquake of July 1990.

LOPEZ. ABS-CBN Broadcasting visionary chairman and patriarch.

Korina Sanchez also recalls those early days when the news team had to share a single typewriter and table. Newly transferred from PTV-4, Korina, together with David Nye, were featured in the very first newscast aired by ABS-CBN.

"We were just a handful of reporters in the news room then but we were never outscooped. I think it was a kind of camaraderie and joint, unified effort because we were just starting out and wanted to prove something," she says.

Main reason

For vice president of current affairs Arlene de Castro, her main reason for staying 15 years in ABS-CBN is the fact that she finds fulfillment in her career and at the same time has the rare chance to help others.

Another veteran of PTV-4, Arlene joined ABS-CBN together with now Sen. Loren Legarda. "I remember starting work in May and received my salary only in August, but I didn't mind. We were all dedicated to our jobs," she reminisces.

Vice president for television Cory Vidanes joined ABS-CBN after working for BBC-2 for her practicum. She came in as associate producer, then rose up the ranks through the years while handling practically most of the major programs of the network.

"1987 was the turning point at ABS-CBN and I personally think it was the most exciting time," Cory recalls. Asked what was her most memorable time in the network, she replied that it was when ABS-CBN first hit No.1.

Ging Reyes, now ABS-CBN's news director, began her career with the network as a production assistant assigned to the newsroom. "Basically, I became everyone's slave," Ging recalls, laughing.

She observed that the initial letdowns in the first news programs she worked on gave way to a determination among newsroom people to prove themselves, and in turn, to help ABS-CBN make its mark.

Working as one family for 15 years is the secret of ABS-CBN's success. Having started at the lowest rank in the broadcasting industry, its staffers' determination, culture of excellence and perseverance were the values that helped the network regain and even surpass its old glory.

LA Lopez resumes his singing career

By Remy M. Umerez

WHAT do singing sensation Aiza Seguerra and comebacking LA Lopez have in common?

Former child stars

Both were child stars. Aiza and LA Lopez (his full name is Lyle Areanne Cruz Lopez) were regular hosts of "E Kasi Bata" from 1992 to 1995 together with RR Herrera.

LOPEZ. Has waxed albums for various record companies.

They were child recording artists, too.. Aiza had earlier recordings with Alpha Records, while LA has waxed albums for various record companies.

His first was under Ivory in 1992 and it was titled "Bulinggit Rap." Alpha signed him up in 1994 and came out with "Batang Mabait." A Christmas album under Star Records was produced in 1995, then he went back to Alpha in 1997 for "Shine: L.A. Lopez."

LA's comeback album was released last September and the success of the songs "Yakap" and "Farewell" made it easier for the album to attain gold status.

Revivals

Both songs are revivals. Spanish singer Junior popularized "Yakap" while Raymond Lauchengco sang "Farewell" in Viva's hit movie, "Bagets."

The 16-year-old LA is being kept busy promoting the third single from the album, "Make Me A Love Song." It was written by his mother Idonnah and carries a special meaning for both of them. The love ballad is dedicated to LA's late father who died from a brain tumor a few years ago.

After he graduates, LA will take up a course in music at the Musicians Institute of Technology in Los Angeles.

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Marvin Agustin is the perfect product endorser

AGUSTIN. Vilma Santos' example motivates him to do his best.

By Jocelyn Valle

SHORTLY before Rico Yan passed away, the young actor had taped a new television commercial with Talk and Text's latest celebrity endorser, Kristine Hermosa. He had also inked another contract with his clothing sponsor, Molecules.

New image model

His TVC with Kristine won't be aired anymore. Neither will his T-shirt ad won't be seen on newspapers, magazines and billboards. But life has to go on for his corporate supporters. Molecules, for instance, has found a new image model in Marvin Agustin.

Dino Medina, marketing communications manager of Chanel Manufacturing Corp., maker of Molecules and its women's line, Particles, admits to having had difficulties in finding a replacement for Rico. "We had a shortlist of only three names," he recalls, "and eventually we settled for Marvin. We feel he's the best choice."

The 23-year-old actor is delighted to take the place of his departed pal, co-host (on "MTB") and costar (on "Whattamen"). "*Hindi ko mapapantayan 'yung mga na*-achieve *niya*," he shares. "But I can continue what he's started, by maintaining a wholesome image."

Good business sense

Since he entered the biz in 1996, Marvin has been shying away from dealing with apparel companies. "*Ayaw ko kasing matali sa isang* brand," he explains. He only began changing his mind when he started working closely with Rico, who was known for his good business sense.

(Marvin was also influenced by Rico to get into other business ventures. He now has a franchise store of Mister Donut and owns a chain of Ricecapade food stalls.)

Marvin is the perfect product endorser. From a typical show biz wannabe who had the good fortune of being launched as a Star Circle, Batch 2 member, Marvin Jay Marquez Cuyugan was able to prove that he had the makings of a star.

His screen partnership with Jolina Magdangal may have provided the big boost to his popularity, but his innate talents and good attitude have made him a durable star.

These days, he's busy acting in two movies: Star Cinema's "Dekada '70" and Viva Films' "Super Bee Saves the Day." Marvin grins as he points out how dissimilar the two projects are:

"*Minsan nga, nalilito na rin ako 'pag dating ko sa* set," he quips. "*Hindi ko alam kung magpapatawa ako o magdadrama.*"

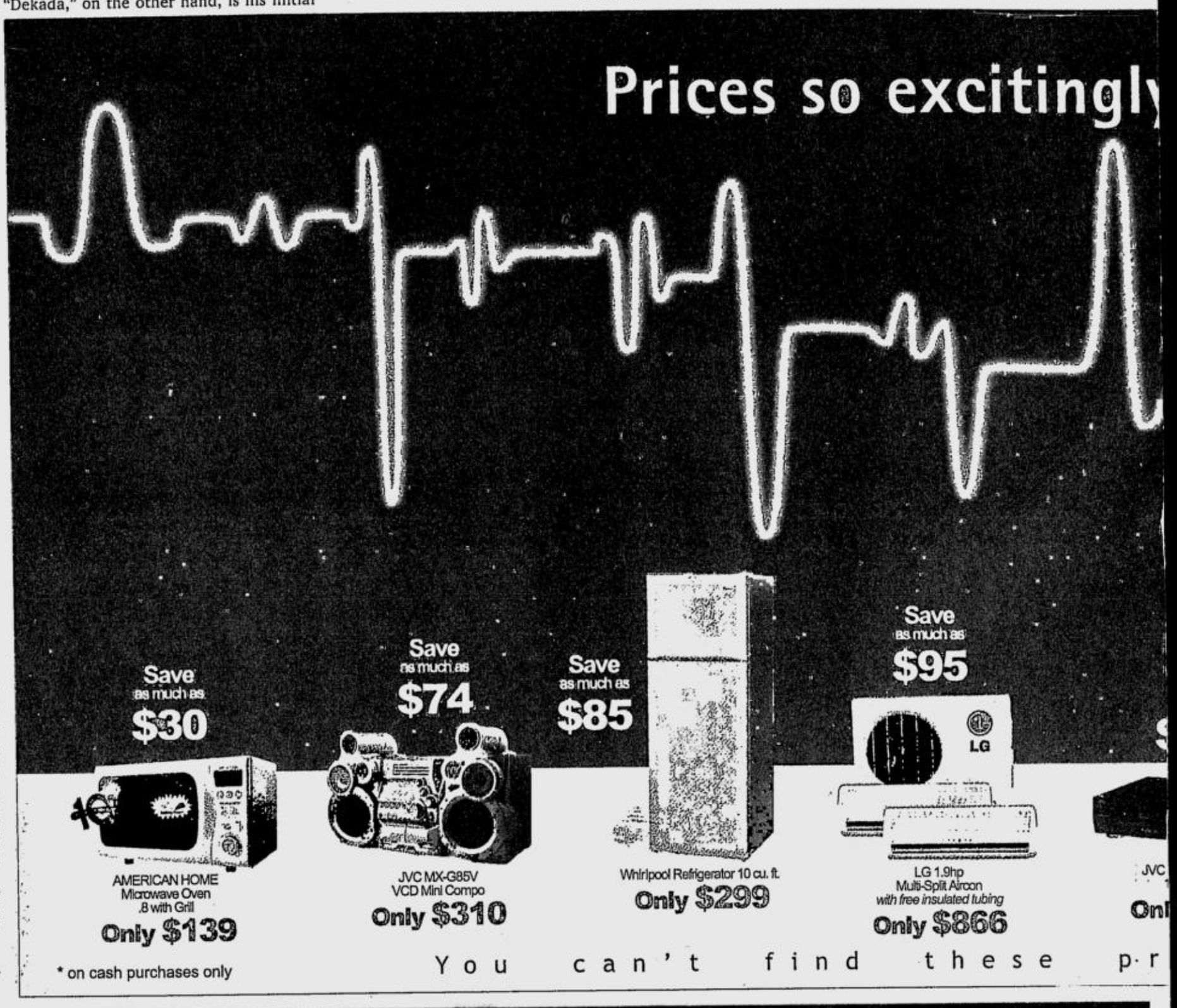
Activist

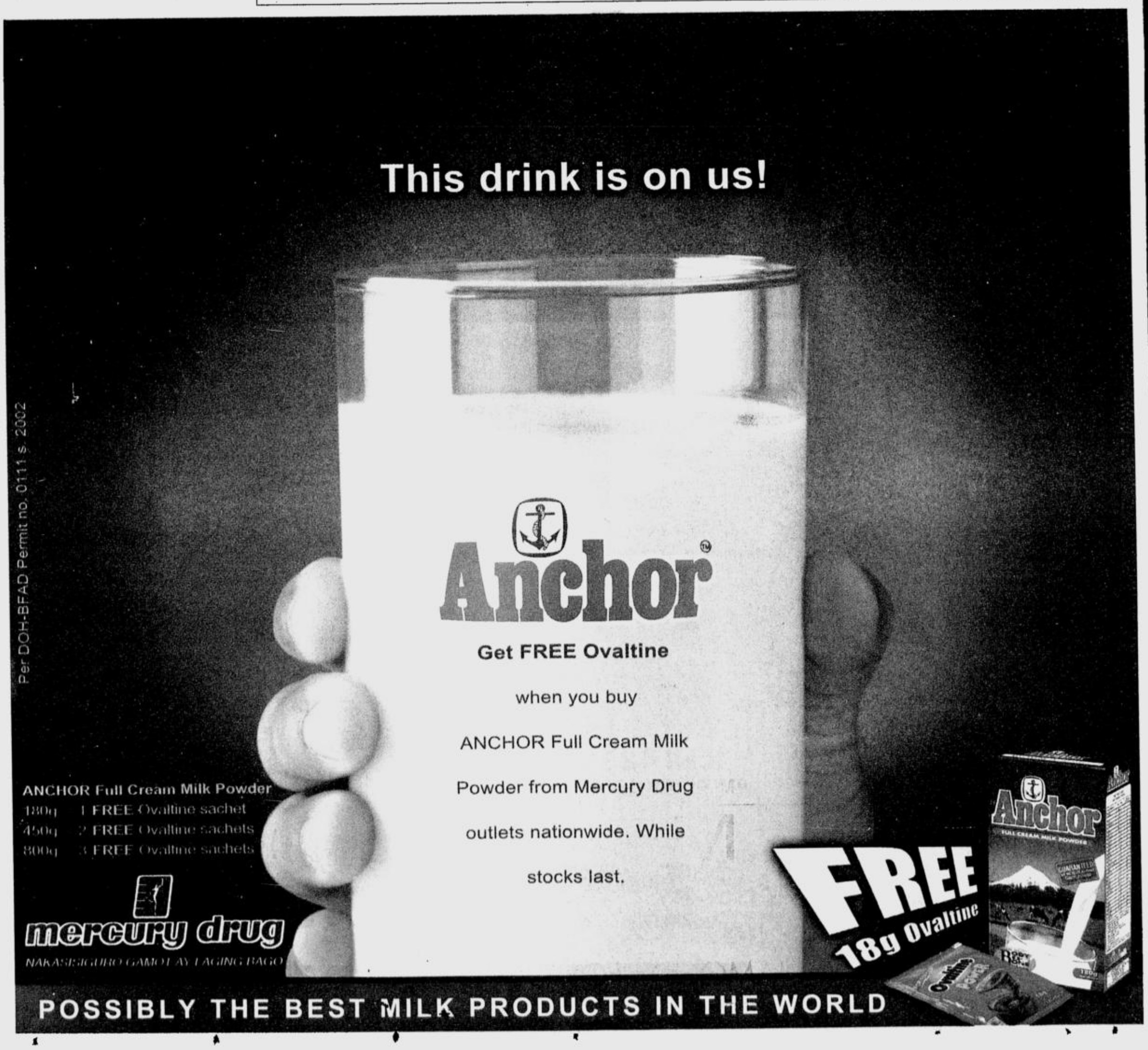
"In 'Dekada,'" he continues, "I play a romance writer who becomes an activist. *Sa 'Super Bee' naman, pinaglihi ako sa Sto. Niño, kaya kulot ang buhok ko!* "

Both films are special to him. "Super Bee" is the first movie that Marvin is making outside his home studio, Star Cinema. "Dekada," on the other hand, is his initial encounter with esteemed actress and politician Vilma Santos.

"It's fun working with her and at the same time you learn a lot from her," he remarks about the Star for All Seasons.

MARVIN/P.F7





Ayen is the heroine of her very own musical fairytale

By Noelani Torre

MOST people know who she is. How many Filipina princesses are there anyway? As far as we know, Ayen Munji-Laurel is the only one. No matter that she was a princess of Brunei, not the Philippines, and that she is divorced from her princely husband. Once a princess, always a princess, and we've always been suckers for royalty.

Serene

Ayen's demeanor is very princess-y, as a matter of fact--regal, serene and graceful. It also adds to her appeal that she's beautiful in a refined way, and that she's the heroine of her very own musical fairytale.

MUNJI-LAUREL. Caressing voice.

A few years back, SK Productions staged the glittery and obviously pricey musical "Rama at Sita" in Manila. Ms. Munji-Laurel was behind SK and the whole project. In the course of the production, she met Franco Laurel the man who turned out to be her love match. They got married sometime after her divorce from the prince.

Self-titled album

This March, Ayen launched her self-titled album at the Music Museum. "Ayen," the album, is composed of 15 tracks, all of them love songs, including the "Miss Kita Kung Christmas" track from her previous CD.

The first few tracks, "Bawat Gabi," "One Last Goodbye," and "Here in My Heart," are poignant songs loaded with longing for the happier past, for a relationship that cannot be, etc.

Genuine feeling

We can't deny that she sounds like she really means what she's singing, as if the feeling she injects in her performance is quite genuine. So, even though some songs sound almost pathetic, we are still able to appreciate the singer's caressing voice.

One of the songs we like, chiefly because of its use of Filipino imagery in the lyrics and because it strikes a different tone from the others, is "Pag-ibig Lang." The rhythm and the melody are similar, but the content is refreshingly different. It's still about love, obviously, but the subject is not treated in a pathos-rich manner.

The CD includes a duet with Martin Nievera, "Not While I'm Around." It's a tad breathy, which doesn't appeal to us, but their voices are very complementary and Ayen holds her own against the concert king.

One cut that's not quite a love song is "Higher and Brighter." A significant other is mentioned but it's more focused on the person's private fears and how that person was able to overcome them and go "higher

AYEN/P.E7

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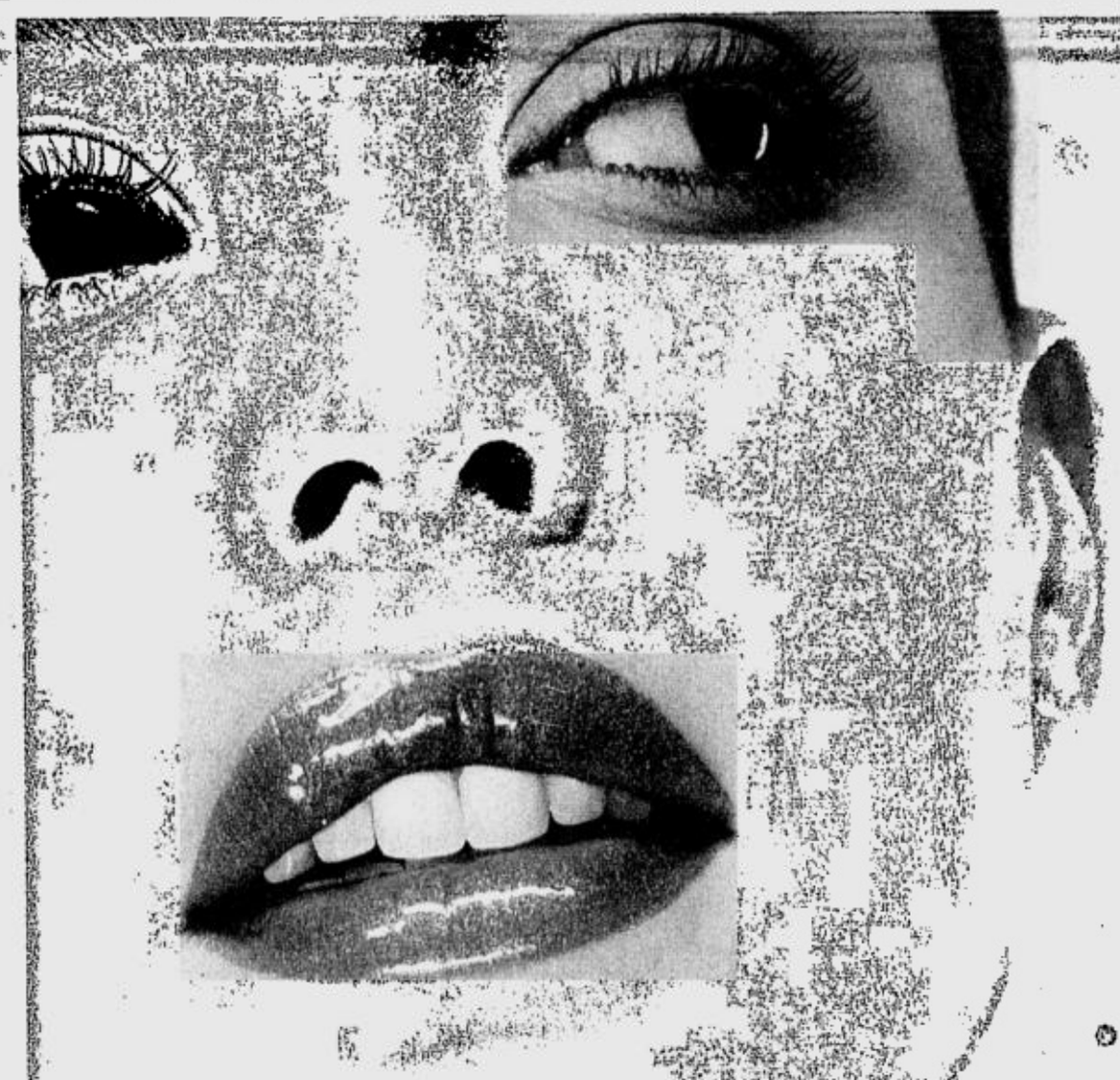

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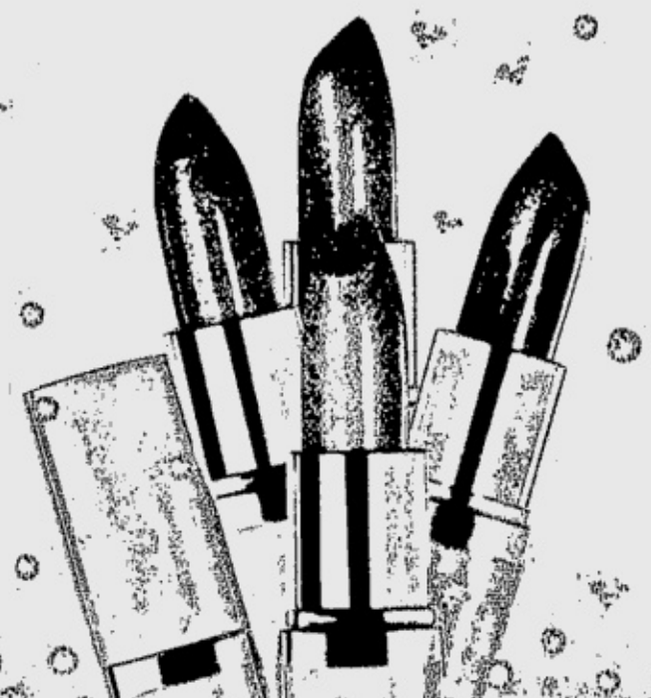

Josie Maran

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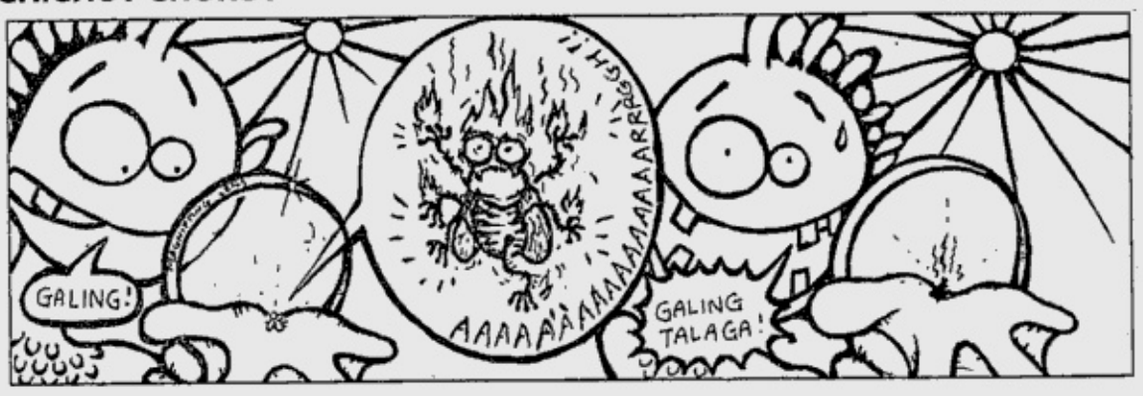


BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Audrey Hepburn, Randy Travis, Pia Zadora

Happy Birthday: Renewed friendships will benefit you. Your open-mindedness will draw others to you. Friendships with foreigners will bring you added knowledge. You'll be more likely to offer your time and your advice rather than money to those in need. This is a year to excel. Your numbers are 1, 4, 11, 25, 36, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You should lend a helping hand to someone in need. Channel your energy into domestic chores that will please family members. Re-evaluate your professional position.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): This is not the day to get into a debate. You will have difficulty finishing projects that you start today. Extravagance and time will work against your efforts.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): The more you interact with others the more knowledge you will acquire. New concepts being offered will inspire you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Put your time and money into your home and family today. The more you nurture what you've accumulated, the better off you'll be in the future. Be compassionate and think before you take action.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Combine work with pleasure today. Get together with colleagues socially and you will discover all sorts of interesting information. Involvement in worthwhile groups will lead to lasting friendships.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Focus on work today and you will get much accomplished. You may be in the mood to have a little fun but only when you feel you have achieved what you set out to do.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll have all sorts of good ideas about having a little fun. You can find interesting connections if you attend a function that will bring you knowledge about something you enjoy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Be careful not to jump too fast regardless of how good a deal appears to be. Love relationships will develop through friends or relatives. Listen and observe but don't lay your heart on the line.

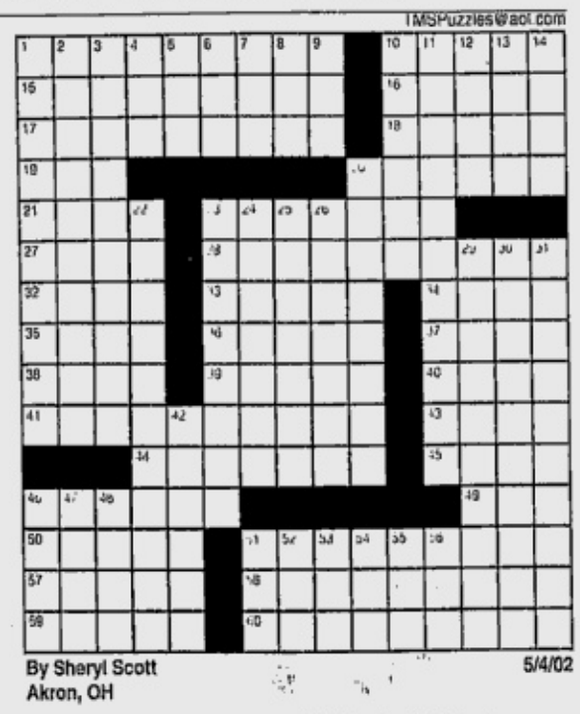
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your colorful storytelling and your wisdom about distant places will attract a lot of attention. Opportunities to get ahead financially will come through your ability to express your ideas and intentions well.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Focus on your financial situation today but don't be too quick to make a move. When you least expect it someone could take advantage of you. Put your energy into physical rather than mental activities.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Although you can usually detach yourself from anything that is emotionally upsetting to you, it will be difficult today. Try to help others and you will find solace.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Involvement with large groups or institutions may be necessary. Your health may suffer if you are stressed. Join clubs or organizations that will enable you to meet established individuals.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Sheryl Scott
Akron, OH

5/4/02

ACROSS
1 "Manhattan Transfer" writer
10 Chests
15 Woody Allen film
16 Eskimo
17 Clairvoyant women
18 Cliff-base pile of rocks
19 Round fig.
20 F
21 Frigg's husband
23 Eurasian ruminant
27 "Symphonie Espagnole" composer
28 Parenthetical remarks, e.g.
32 Ken or Lena
33 Man who is a dish?
34 Squabble
35 Demolish
36 Senator Hatch
37 Guam or Yukon: abbr.
38 __ out a living (scraped by)
39 Italian white wine
40 Concerning
41 States of inactivity
43 Gray and Candler
44 Roman emperors
45 New Jersey team
46 Changes the labeling
49 Gain a lap
50 Sun-dried brick
51 Act up
57 Total
58 Recess periods
59 Loads cargo
60 Trousseau storage

DOWN
1 Stained
2 Body of water near Syracuse
3 Makes germ free
4 According to
5 Exist
6 Family member, casually
7 Distress signal
8 Bauxite or galena
9 Draft letters
10 Actress Jacqueline
11 Heathen
12 Chapter of the Koran
13 Stadium level
14 Stoop element
20 Spooky state
22 Not capable of learning
23 Retaliatory actions
24 Burdensome
25 Erik of "CHiPs"
26 One who deduces
29 Keyless-entry phrase?
30 Stories
31 Treadmill examination
42 Actress Jeanne
46 Banister
47 Writer Ferber
48 Loathsome person
51 Highway-sign abbreviation
52 Worldwide workers' grp.
53 Maple syrup source
54 Automatic advance in a tournament
55 List-ending abbreviation
56 Royal address, in brief

Friday's Puzzle Solved

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5/4/02

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL

KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

The choices we make

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

IT must be the summer heat that plays weird games on the mind. Or the sequence of certain recent events must have triggered something inside me. Or, it must be one of those days when I'm in one of those moods that I tend to find profound meanings in even the simplest, most innocent things. Whatever it is, I'm quite baffled that my thoughts these days linger on the "*sayang*" things in life.

Inadequate

Sayang. This must be a uniquely Filipino concept because it has no direct translation in the king's language. (Perhaps, members of royalty have no *sayang* things in their lives?) The word "regrettable" doesn't quite capture the fullness of the *Tagalog* meaning. "What a waste" is the closest translation for it, but even that is quite inadequate.

Try translating Claire de la Fuente's poignant, "*Sayang, ngayon lang tayo nagkatagpo.*" You come up with something like, "What a waste that only now do we've met" or "I regret that we've met only now!"

Life is nothing but a colorful parade of the choices we've made. We either bask in the glory or suffer the consequences of those decisions—depending on whether time has proven them right or wrong. The tragedy is, what to us was the best choice at the time we made it could eventually turn out to be the stupidest, dumbest and most moronic.

Solitude

For instance, the choices we make in matters of the heart. As we try to rise from the wreckage of our marriage, we look up to heaven and wonder whether God was there when we decided to show our spouse the way to the door out of our life. As we contemplate the value of solitude and loneliness, we scour our library of memories, but we fail to retrieve the book of valid reasons to break up a marriage.

A friend in her 50s came up to me after the last Christmas holidays and said, "You know, Inday? My mom was right. I shouldn't have packed my things and left my husband." A stream of tears began to find its way down her cheeks.

As it turned out, she had just come from a family reunion where she saw all her siblings with their respective families. Their faces glowed as they wore the scars from the wars they had lost just as proudly as the medals from the battles they had won.

The sense of victory came from their having held on to each other as husband and wife, and as a family. They didn't allow the tears, fears and years to defeat them—and these have now become the spices that make their recipe for life even more delicious than it already was.

Courage

"I envied them, Inday," my friend cried. "Before, I thought my sisters were miserable for not having the courage to leave their insufferable husbands when all directions seemed to point to the exit. Now, I have no one to blame but myself for not having been brave enough to hold on. A little pain here and a little hurt there were enough to make me scurry out of a marriage to a man I once swore to love and hold forever."

Needless to say, I cry the same tears as my friend, although I shed mine quietly and less dramatically. I once read a book entitled, "Tough Times Don't Last, Tough People Do." Tough luck! I didn't quite understand what that meant then. Now, I clearly see that the very things I thought stood for valor were exactly what symbolized my weakness and, worse, cowardice!

Going back to my friend, she proceeded to recite to me her litany of woes as a mother. Like any parent who could afford it and didn't know any better, she gave her children everything that money could buy because she loved them so much. But now, it seems to her that the things she did to show her love were actually what destroyed them. "I gave them the good life when I should have prepared them for the bad," she belatedly lamented.

I told her not to be too hard on herself. Every mother does her best for her children but she cannot live their lives for them. A mother eagle can only feed her young, she cannot possibly fly for them. They have to do that for themselves.

Purpose in life

Indeed, at some point, children have to discover for themselves what their purpose in life is, and live it the best way they can. They have their own choices and decisions to make. Even if, in the realm of their imagination, they have the worst parents in the world, the choice to either be whole or broken is theirs and theirs alone to make.

KELLY. "There must be something more to life than going to the make-up room!"

Children cannot forever blame their parents for their wounds. They have to realize that they can decide to heal. They can choose to pick up the broken pieces of their lives and put them together again. And the sources of their brokenness can be transformed to become their tools for restoration.

Come to think of it, there are actually no *sayang* things in this life. It all depends on which side you choose to look at it, and on the pivotal decisions you make because of your choice.

I remember Grace Kelly. A reporter once asked her why she decided to get married to a little prince from a little kingdom when she was on top of her career, the entire universe was at her beck and call, and she could have everything that Hollywood offered only to the fairest of them all.

She pondered the question and replied something like, "I go to the make-up room at 6:30 in the morning and I face the cameras exactly one hour later. Joan Crawford goes to the make-up room at 5:30 in the morning and faces the cameras exactly two hours later. Bette Davis goes to the make-up room at 4:30 in the morning and faces the cameras exactly three hours later. I don't want to have to go to the make-up room at 3:30 in the morning and face the cameras exactly *four* hours later. There must be something more to life than going to the make-up room!"

Well, I don't know exactly how to connect make-up rooms with marriage, and parenthood and life, and *sayang*. But, I'm quite sure you know exactly what I mean!

Ayen . . . (From page F5)

and brighter."

"Pain in My Heart" is another "heart-broken" ballad but it's not wimpy. This one has a touch of resentment and bitterness that adds an interesting splash of dark color to an otherwise pastel collection. Not that we don't like pastel, it's only that contrast can be very pleasing to the eye and the ear.

Big difference

Franco Laurel makes his entrance in the second to the last track, "Nasa Iyo Na." The song is rendered well and it makes a big difference that we know who the singers are and what sort of relationship they have with each other.

"Miss Kita Kung Christmas" is the bonus track. It's a sentimental piece that's still memorable despite the proliferation of sentimental songs about Christmas. That sentiment more or less applies to the whole album itself, which manages to retain a flavor of its own even though most of the songs are the usual slow and sentimental ballads. Of course, we don't expect a princess to start belting out angst and cynicism *ala* Alanis Morissette, either.

All in all, it's a good collection, perfect for long summer afternoons and longer, languorous summer nights. Ayen Munji-Laurel definitely has talent.

Marvin . . . (From page F4)

Marvin remembers being overwhelmed by the award-winning actress. "First shooting day *ko kasi 'yun, tapos siya pa ang kaeksena ko*," he says, shaking his head.

What has he learned from Mayor Vi? "*Ilagay mo sa puso mo ang ginagawa mo – 'yan ang sinasabi at ginagawa niya*," he replies. "*Minsan iniisip ko na madami na akong ginagawa pero siya*, she's very successful in all her four major roles in life – as a mother, a wife, a mayor and an actress. She motivates me do my best. And like her, I would also like to inspire people."

New in the Philippines

(a discovery so amazing, so certain, that you can try without risking a single peso)

When they saw my new breasts my friends could not believe their eyes!

Without any surgery, in less than two weeks, my breasts have become higher, firmer and more voluminous. There are dozens of treatment for breasts but this one is really unique. Let me show you how it works.

It's incredible, I finally got the breasts that I always dreamed of. And I thought that only surgery could bring about such visible results, I was mistaken," declares Carol Lelen. She explains below how she obtained her very beautiful bust - you could have it too...

I should first specify that I never had big breasts. And when I got my first baby, I realized that in addition to that, they became less firm and they fell a bit... for me it was a catastrophe and I tried all sorts of creams and gadgets. But these did not change anything. I even contemplated aesthetic surgery but it was expensive and I was afraid of it.
I think I would have given anything just to have firmer and well-rounded breasts. But I was arriving at the conclusion that there was no solution at all for me, until one day when I went on vacation by the seaside in France with a friend.

Irresistible Breasts

One day while putting a swimsuit I confided my problem to my friend. It was at this moment that she talked to me about this famous procedure she discovered a few years ago.
I must admit that the results are stupefying. At forty years old, my friend has superb breasts, to such a point that, while walking by the seaside in monokini, she attracted the attention of a lot of people.
I should say that I envy her! She explained to me that she had the same problem after the birth of her son.
She told me too that before she discovered "Busterream" (this is the name of the treatment), she had much smaller breasts. And thanks to this treatment, she grew from 80 cm to 90 cm in her breast line in just a few months.
I just wanted to believe her, specially when she told me that there was absolutely no medication to take, absolutely no exercise to do and that this fantastic procedure had nothing to do with any cream that you see in the market today!
In conclusion, she added: "You will see, you will notice some change right from the very first few days and at the end of the vacation you will have a bust as big as mine... perhaps even more beautiful because you are younger than me."

Me who has such a big complex with my bust

It should be noted that for a long time, I had a big complex with my bust. I would have wanted so much to have round and firm breasts and perhaps breasts with more volume... Therefore, I decided to order.
My friend seemed to be so convinced, that I wanted to try it myself. Anyway, I was risking nothing, the results were guaranteed if not I had nothing to pay. A few days later, I received my "Busterream" treatment.
I had nothing to do but to follow the simple instructions. Everything was clearly explained.

Why does it work?

Actually, your breasts possess a certain number of adipose cells that are non-functional (see Schema 1 above). This is the reason why breasts fall and lose their firmness. Thanks to the action of "Busterream" these adipose cells are stimulated and become functional again (see Schema 2 above), which gives to your breasts their roundness, firmness and volume. Read the article above to be able to know how to provoke this process

Here are the exact results that I was able to obtain in less than fifteen days

I immediately began my treatment. It's true that it is very simple and agreeable... I could affirm that after two or three sessions, by looking at my profile in the mirror, I could see a real change already.
Of course I continued, and after each session I saw with delight my bust becoming firmer, more shapely and gaining a bit more volume. After eleven days the results were really fantastic. Even my friend could not believe her own eyes.
I remember my husband during the first evening of my return from vacation. He was dumbfounded. "What did you do? Your breasts are superb! Have you had a bust lift during your vacation?" And I told him: "No, I just followed a treatment called "Busterream"."
It has been three months since I discovered "Busterream" and I am the first one stupefied to realize that my breasts have completely transformed themselves.
I have told it to my aesthetician who couldn't believe her eyes (she explains these amazing results due to the fact that this process acts upon the glandular tissues by light contractions and on the internal fibers by activating the blood circulation). She then asked me to order a treatment for her.
Today I know she promotes "Busterream" to her clients after the birth of a child or after a too rapid weight loss. This is to tell you that even my aesthetician has been enthralled by "Busterream".
I now know that this treatment is available in the Philippines and this is the reason why I accepted to share my experience, to allow other women who would like to have beautiful breasts to discover this extraordinary treatment."

- Carol Lelen

A scientific process and not a miracle!

The originality of this unique treatment lies in the fact that it combines several indispensable actions for the regeneration of the bust.

- **Immediate action on the body of the breasts.**

"Busterream" restores to the skin its elasticity and firmness, thus creating a veritable natural bra that gives "body" to your breasts.

- **Durable and lasting effect.**

By acting upon the capillaries under the skin, the "Busterream" process provokes and stimulates the cellular activity of the muscle fibers of the bust. Tired tissues become firm again, glands are stimulated, blood circulation is activated, the adipose cells grow in size and take on life again, which has an overall effect of provoking a veritable regeneration of your breasts.

- **Results that are really visible.**

From the very first few sessions, by passing your hands over your breasts you can feel how much firmer they are, and by looking at yourself in profile at the mirror, you will be amazed to see at what point your breasts have already remodeled themselves.

In fifteen days, "with a tape measure in your hands", you will realize that your breasts have gained volume. In addition to that, your skin will be firmer and more supple...and therefore, more agreable to caress. Your partner will certainly not fail to notice it.

Now, obtain the breasts of your dreams

Do you want to try this new process yourself? To have breasts that are firm, high and shapely without ever resorting to aesthetic surgery.
Perhaps you have already tried different products, creams or gadgets without any convincing results. Now you can forget all of it.
Even if you have already raised several children, your breasts should become firmer. Even if your breasts are almost inexistent, you should be able to see them take on volume. You should be able to realize it without any doubt within fifteen days:

- Breasts that are slightly more voluminous
- Breasts that are higher with more body
- Softer and firmer skin

The first "Busterream" treatment is for FREE. Here is our offer.

Simply cut and send the enclosed coupon. When you will receive your package, you will receive two treatments. First of all, use the first treatment (the trial treatment). Follow the instructions that will be given you. It will just take a few minutes to read the instructions and from the very first few sessions you should be able to obtain visible results from your mirror.
By passing your hands over your breasts, you will feel them to be more firm, more round and by looking at yourself in profile before the mirror, you will be amazed to see at what point your breasts have already started to remodel themselves.
If, after using the first treatment, you are not completely convinced with the results, just return to us the unopened second treatment (the elaborated treatment) and the experience will not have cost you anything. Not a single peso.

You have fifteen days to realize that your breasts stays more firm and more shapely

After fifteen days, you should be able to realize not only a veritable change, not only firmer and shapelier breasts, but also, you should be able to realize that these results are durable.
If not, if you are not 100% enthusiastic, just send us back the Elaborated treatment "Busterream" and we will reimburse you. And this, without any condition, and without any questions asked. You could then begin this treatment just because you are simply curious.

Only for the next fifteen days (after this, it will be too late)

At this very moment, you will benefit from our special introductory offer of "Busterream" in the Philippines. But there is one condition. And that is to send the coupon immediately. Because after this promo, the price of the treatment will be fixed at P3450.00 and there would probably be no more free trials.
Remember this well: you are not buying definitively today, you are just making a trial. If you would not be 100% enthusiastic (something which would surprise me) your trial treatment will not have cost you one single peso.
This is the reason why you should not risk arriving too late. Send to us this very day your coupon so that we will expedite to you the product in priority.

If you are not buying through correspondence, you could directly obtain this treatment through M.S.I.C., Rm. 303 Munro Bldg., 612 Pinatubo St., (MRT Boni) Mandaluyong City.
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Put a check in the square corresponding to your case. I desire:
☐ breasts that are more firm.
☐ breasts with more body.
☐ breasts with more volume.

Yes, your trial offer without any commitment on my part interests me. I want to try the new "Bustlift" treatment.
According to your guarantee, it is understood that:
1. I should see visible results right from the very first few days of treatment.
2. I should realize that my breasts are more firm, that they have more body, and that my skin (surrounding my breasts) is more taut and soft to caress.
3. this treatment acts through simple application once a day.
4. I have 15 entire days to realize that I am really enthusiastic with this product.

If it is not the case, or if for one reason or another, I were not 100% enthusiastic, I would send to you through registered mail the unopened elaborated treatment within 15 days after having received it. I don't have to give you any explanation. And after reception of my return package, you would reimburse me integrally. And this, without asking me any question whatsoever and without any conditions.
Under this guarantee, please send to me, through a discreet package without any exterior markings, the complete "Busterream" treatment consisting of 15 ml of the Biological Serum plus 100 ml of the Restructuring Emulsion plus Toning Oil and 15 ml of Bio Emulsion 3J.
Please find enclosed my payment of P2600.00 + P100.00 for delivery and handling, or a grand total of P2700.00 that I enclose through:
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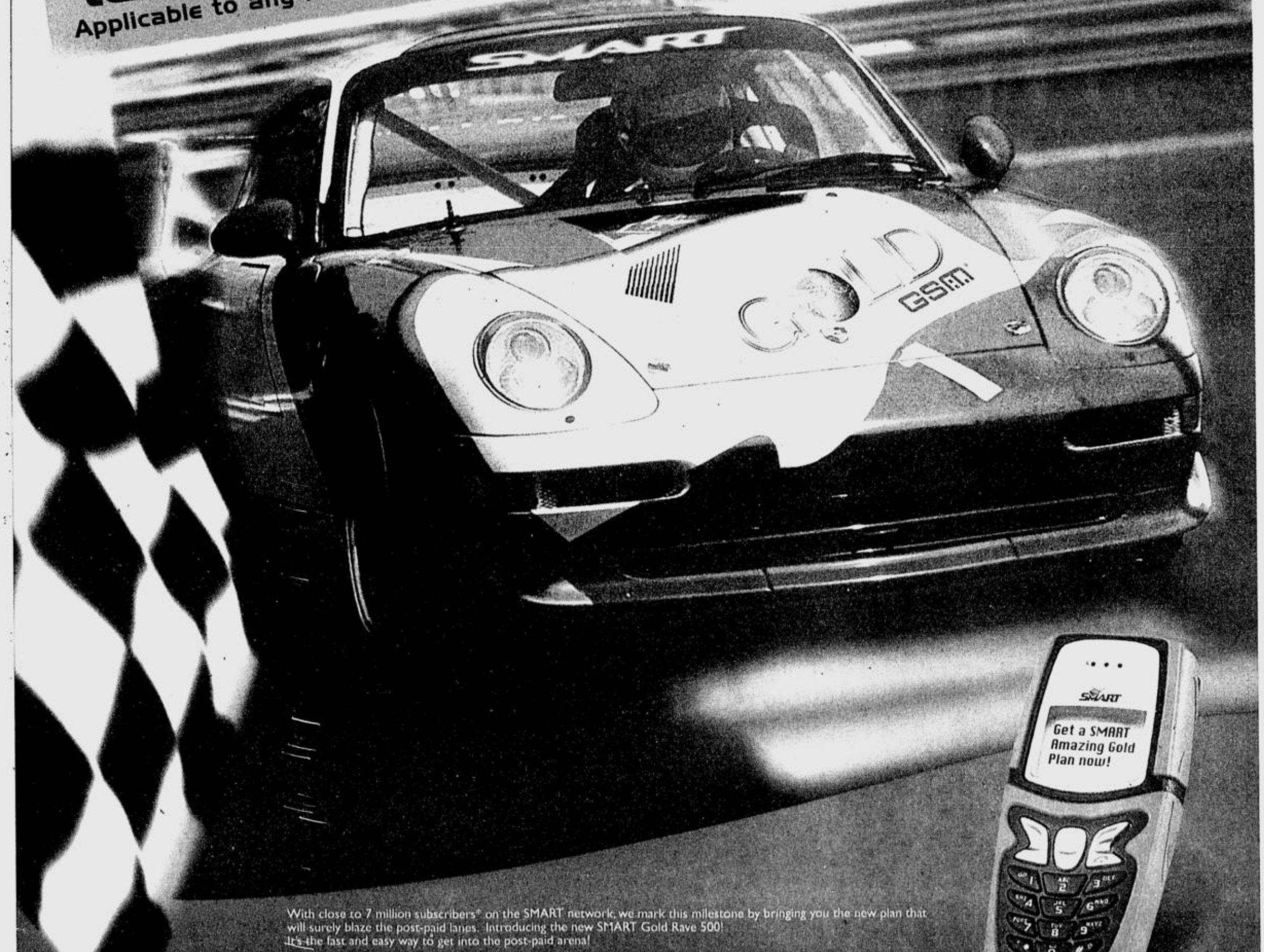

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After years of delay, Spider-Man makes movie debut

By Bob Tourtellotte

LOS ANGELES—To hear the makers of the film tell it, getting the new "Spider-Man" movie made was as sticky and tangled as any web the superhero shoots from his wrist.

Lawsuits

For more than a decade, the film was mired in bankruptcies, lawsuits, director changes and even a Sept. 11 controversy over advertisements showing the World Trade Center twin towers.

But on Friday, the red- and blue-suited crime fighter finally made his movie debut weaving the same adventurous tales for moviegoers as he has for Marvel comic book fans for 40 years. The makers of the film say the wait may have been a good thing after all—good for them, good for the movie.

So good, in fact, they are already planning a sequel.

"You couldn't have made it 15 years ago," said Avi Arad, executive producer and Marvel Studios chief. "It needed special effects that weren't in place until, probably, 'Terminator 2 (Judgment Day, 1992)."'

The wait brought about the assignment of director Sam Raimi, whose taste for the cinematic arts varies from science-fiction thriller "Darkman" to independent hit "A Simple

AFTER YEARS/ P. G2

MAGUIRE. The delay gave him time to mature.

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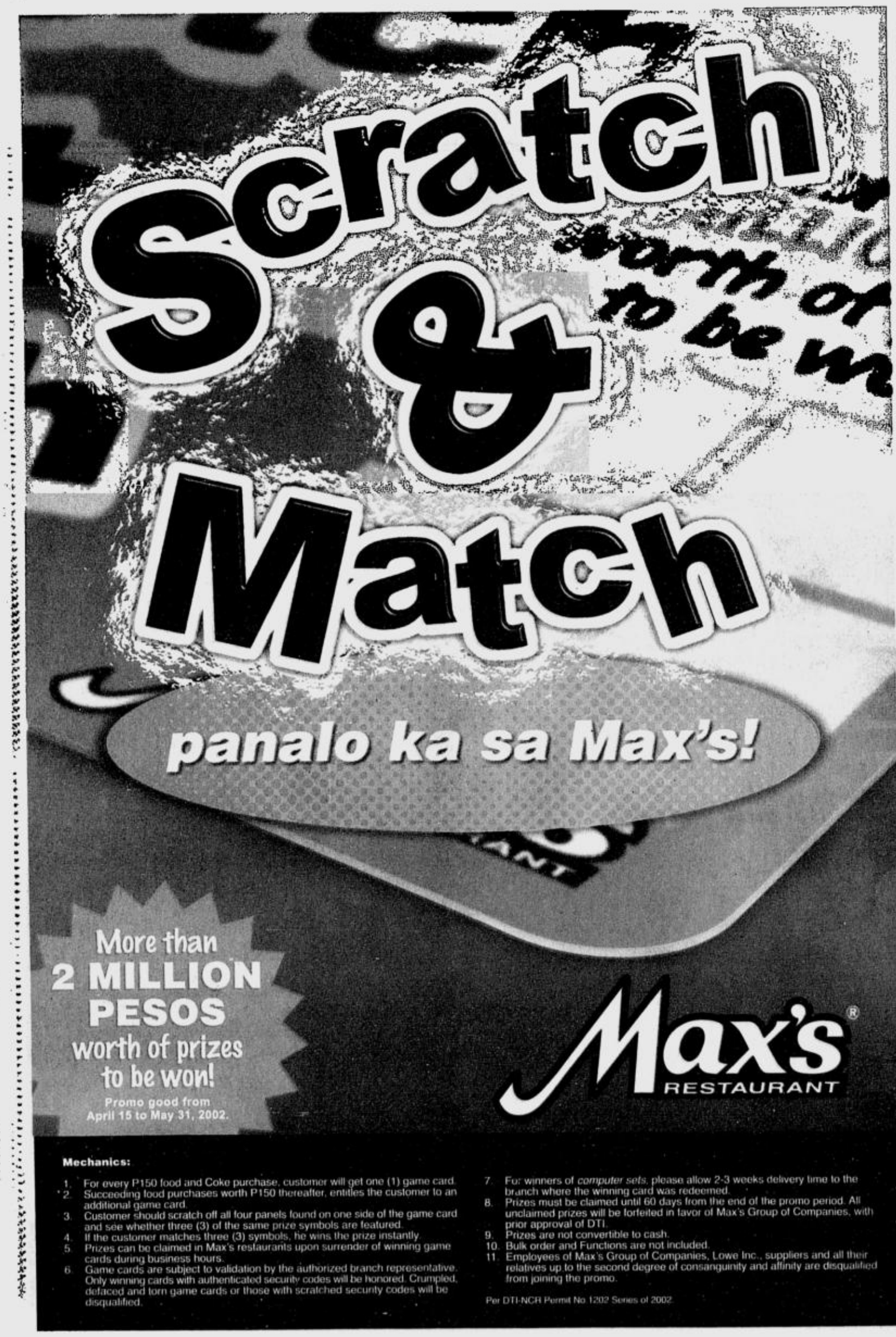


Ogie Alcasid, Carol Banawa guest on Mr. C's 'Amazing Nights at the Tent'

By Edmund L. Sicam

OGIE. Vocally-demanding format.

On Wednesday, May 8, Ogie Alcasid and Carol Banawa will be the guests of Ryan Cayabyab on his monthly show, "Amazing Nights at the Tent" at the NBC Tent at The Fort. Ogie is excited about this concert because this is the first time that he will be working with both Ryan and Carol in a show like this. He has worked with Ryan in several shows in the past, but he clarifies, "Not like this one!"

First time

This is the first time Ogie is working with Carol. The two are regular performers on competing variety shows, "ASAP" and "SOP" which air at the same time. *"Ngayon ko lang siya makakatrabaho,"* he says eagerly. Ogie has nothing but praises for his co-star, "I watch her, all the time! I think she has a beautiful voice. She's got what it takes."

Another thing that Ogie is excited about is the format of the show. Just like Mr. C's now defunct television show, "Ryan, Ryan Musikahan", where he was a regular guest, it will just be the singer, the piano, and Mr. C. "(It's a) challenge *kasi* every note can be heard, 'cause it's just you and the piano. *Kasi* when you're with a band, *puwede kang matakpan e!* Here, you've got to concentrate more on your tonality," explains Ogie, "*pero* I like it more *kasi*, *mas gusto ko iyung ganoon ka*-intimate, because although the format is very light, it's vocally demanding."

Ogie also likes the informal format because it suits his personality and his style of dealing with audiences. They will be singing mostly OPM tunes so that means that 95 percent of the songs that Ogie will sing are songs that he wrote himself.

Lately, Ogie has become in demand as a composer. After the success of "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw" and "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang," singers have been making a beeline for his songs. At present, he has songs that are in the process of being recorded by artists such as Pops Fernandez, Ana Dizon, Tootsie Guevarra, Side A, and the love theme for the latest movie of Ruffa Mae Quinto. *"Sastre na nga ako e,"* jokes Ogie, "before *kasi*, it was more of an informal, *gawa-mo-naman-ako-ng*-song, *ganoon*. But now I look at it as a job already. Job description *ko*, singer/songwriter. I write everyday *na*."

Critique

Ogie has been criticized in the past for writing lyrics that are sappy and cause one to say, "I've heard that line before." But Ogie says this is precisely what he is going after. "I don't try to avoid `sappy' lines. I"ve been criticized for them, like *'sa puso ko ikaw lamang ang mamahalin.....'*, any Tom, Dick and Harry can come up with a lyric like that. But that's precisely my point. For songs like 'Wild Thing' or 'Here Comes the Sun,' the Beatles weren't thinking of lyrics that made them exclaim, 'This is so profound!' They just felt it."

"My lyrics, *kasi*, are not very deep," admits the composer, "though I try to add a little bit of imagery, *pero hindi mo pa rin sasabihing 'Ang lalim naman niyan!'*" But he does it this way because he is able to reach the listeners. *"Naiintindihan ng tao.* So *iyung* pop culture *nakaka*-identify.

"And it seems to me that teenagers nowadays really appreciate songs that have a lot of heart. I think they like a lot of sappy, sentimental songs," Ogie explains.

More substance

Of course, he does want to write songs that have more substance. "I do have some of them," he says with a smile. "In fact, I made my manager listen to my latest work, and he said, 'Strangely enough, your lyrics are improving, they're becoming deeper!' *Siguro nga dala na ng* I'm getting tired of what I used to sing," theorizes Ogie. *"Kasi taga*-Taal *ako e. Ang dami doong mga makata na talagang ang lalalim!"*

Ogie gives us an example of his ventures into deeper and more creative songwriting. *"Tulad nitong ginawa ko* for Ruffa Mae, *kasi* in love *siya*, *e* superhero *siya*, so, *ni*-liken *ko iyung pagiging* in love *niya sa* feeling *niya pag lumilipad siya."* The lyrics go: *Minsan ako'y nanaginip na kasama kita / sa isang malayong lugar / mga tanawin ay kay ganda / at habang hawak mo ang aking kamay / unti-unti akong namamatay / sa duyan ng pag-ibig / nais kong humimlay."*

"Tapos ang chorus, *Lumilipad ang puso ko kapag kapiling na kita / di mapigil ang aking nadarama / naglalakad ako sa hangin / naaabot ko ang bituin / basta't nariyan ka sa aking piling—May konting* imagery *doon, pero naiintindihan mo,"* says Ogie.

Although his songs are usually heartwrenching and sentimental, audiences always expect an Ogie Alcasid show to be spontaneous and wacky. "I think what they (audiences) demand from me is fun. OK, what's he up to? What's something stupid that he's gonna do?" he says of his audience.

Happy disposition

Ogie says, his happy disposition is not a put-on. It's really the way he is. "'Cause I can't relate anything sad about my life. I can't go and say, 'You know life is really, really rotten! I think that's the challenge there for me, to make people have fun, most of the time. Sometimes I challenge myself to sing as beautifully as I can. The concert I need to be vocally prepared (for), is this one."

After years . . . (From page G1)

Plan" with its tale of modern-day greed among ordinary people.

Humanity

It is Raimi's combining of the type of dizzying special effects needed for sci-fi thrillers with the humanity of a film like the critically acclaimed "Simple Plan" that is fueling strong, early word-of-mouth for "Spider-Man" in Hollywood.

Raimi, 42, campaigned hard for the job because he grew up reading the Spider-Man comics and felt he knew what Spider-Man's alter-ego, the young Peter Parker, was all about.

The delays also gave time for actor Tobey Maguire, 26, to mature in films such as 1997's "The Ice Storm" and 1999's Oscar-nominated "The Cider House Rules." He became the kind of actor who could inject a heart into Spider-Man and add some soul to all the muscle-flexing that goes into action flicks.

Parker, Raimi said, was raised in a working-class family, never gets the girl, is really uncool, and lies awake at night wondering if all this superhero stuff is worth it.

"Peter Parker, unlike Superman, is really one of us," said Raimi," referring to that faster-than-a-speeding-bullet fellow from the planet Krypton.

Spider-Man does not soar through the air using otherworldly powers. He swings from a series of super-strong and sticky web-like strings he shoots from his genetically altered body.

Skyscrapers

He's sort of like Tarzan swinging through the jungle on vines, although in Spider-Man's case, the jungle is New York and the trees are skyscrapers.

Many things have changed since Spider-Man first appeared in 1962 in the Marvel comic "Amazing Fantasy." For one, nuclear radiation is now less an everyday concern among people than crazy scientists who change the DNA of animals and humans.

So, one invention of the film's makers over the long process of getting "Spider-Man" made was to change the way Peter Parker is given his powers—super strength, speed, agility and the web-making material his body produces.

In the comic, he was bitten by a radioactive spider. For the film, Parker is bitten by a genetically engineered spider, which overnight transforms him.

He is not the only one who finds his body changed by science. His best friend's father, wealthy inventor Norman Osborn (Willem Dafoe), takes a serum meant to boost his own powers, but instead turns into the dark murderer, The Green Goblin, thus setting up the movie's principal rivalry between the good Spider-Man and the evil Green Goblin.

"To fight somebody who happens to be your best friend's dad gives (the movie) drama, and I wanted it to have dramatic underpinnings," Raimi said. "I wanted to make it about Peter Parker, not about Spider-Man."

Sticky relationships

Raimi's "Spider-Man" is all about that basic instinct that drives all young men and thrills young women. Parker just wants to score a date with the girl of his dreams. In this case, it is high-

AFTER YEARS/ P. G3

Sylvia S. Limon, Marymount School and CLC founder

MS Sylvia Limon obtained a Master of Science in Guidance and Counseling with concentration in elementary level in 1972.

In 1975 and 1976, she handled a project for Sony Corporation, Japan for materials in teaching English as a second language.

Preschool

It was in 1976, while teaching at the International School in the morning that she started a preschool at Santiago Village in Makati. In 1976, another Child Learning Center opened at BF Parañaque. After one year, CLC opened a preschool in Tahanan Village.

In 1985, Sylvia established her dream school, Marymount, with a mission to provide children with the most innovative learning tools in preschool education.

Marymount School offers high quality and personalized education program in humanities and modern technology with emphasis on computer education and telecommunications, nurturing the wholistic and Christian formation of every student.

SYLVIA/ P. G4

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

FRONT row (from left), Maricar Ramos, Paz Villanueva, Lorie Chongco, Agnes Baduria and Sylvia Limon (founder); Back row (from left), Jhun Buencuseco and Robert Del Monte.

After years . . .

(From page G2)

school sweetheart and red-haired flame Mary Jane Watson, played by Kirsten Dunst.

"I usually don't like these kinds of movies, but this one has a good heart and a good romance and a good superhero," Dunst said. "He's, like, still charming and dorky . . . and he's not like a super-hunk."

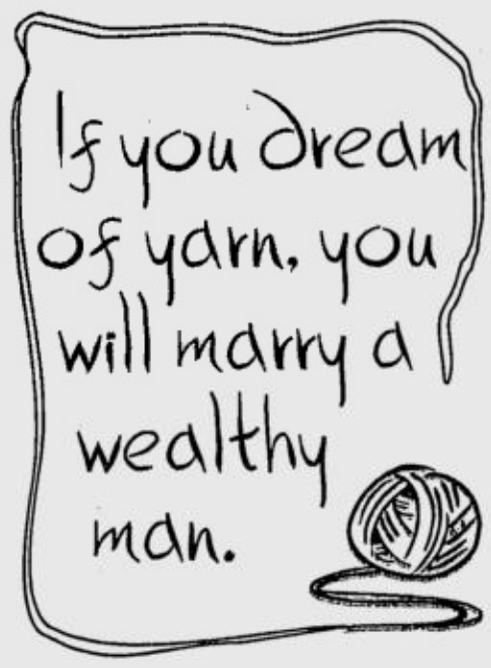
Ah, but Parker wishes he were.

When he first wields his super powers, it's not as part of a quest to rid New York of the Green Goblin. Rather, he beats up Mary Jane's boyfriend who, until now, has picked on Parker.

His second chance to show his stuff is wrestling "Bone Saw McGraw" to win $3,000. Why? Well, $3,000 buys him the car that should impress the girl and score him the date.

Parker's real problems arise when Spider-Man catches his first villain, and a newspaper editor asks whether he's doing it for the city or for his own glory. That makes Parker consider his own motives and whether they are pure.

Reuters



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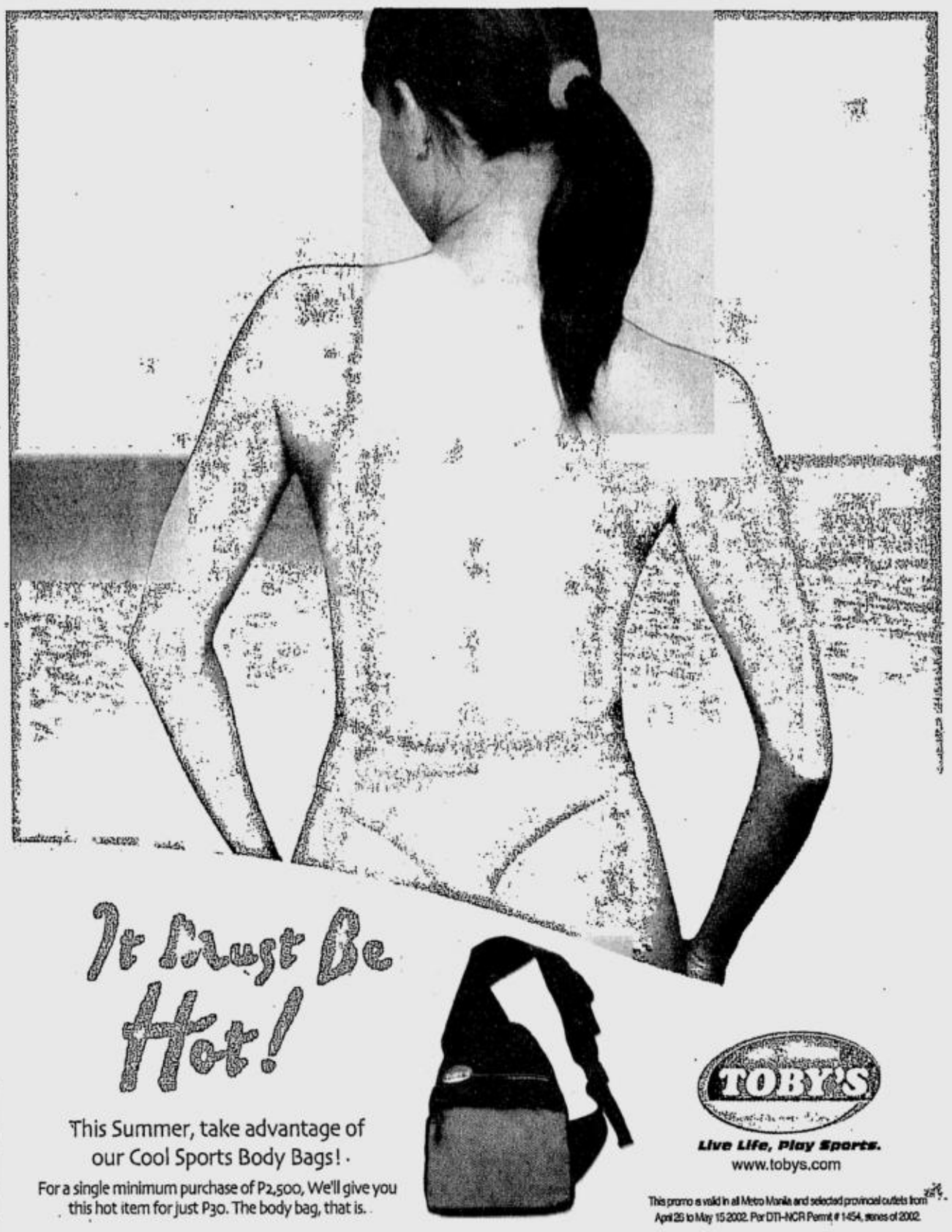


Frenzy of TV nostalgia dominates US May 'sweeps'

By Steve Gorman

LOS ANGELES—Network television will bid farewell to a lovelorn lawyer, a perky college coed and a batch of paranoid FBI agents while welcoming back its favorite shows of yesteryear for a nostalgia-soaked May "sweeps" period that started Thursday night.

Tributes

Even as NBC, CBS and ABC cram their prime-time schedules with tributes to everyone from Bob Hope to Mary Tyler Moore to "Laverne & Shirley," the smaller networks will retire a handful of their hallmark shows.

Fox will air a two-hour send-off to its sci-fi thriller "The X-Files" on May 19, with former series star David Duchovny returning as special agent Fox Mulder. Producers promise to tie up most of the nine-year-old show's mythological loose ends, maybe finally revealing the truth that may or may not be "out there."

"Ally McBeal," the quirky Fox series starring Calista Flockhart as a neurotic lawyer endlessly searching for true love, will end its five-year run the following night.

Another prime-time heroine, "Felicity," starring Keri Russell in a college-based drama, will bow out of primetime with a two-hour finale capping its four seasons on the WB network. And "Roswell" will leave the airwaves after one year on UPN and two years on WB.

Retrospectives

Otherwise, the coming month will be dominated by reunions, retrospectives and anniversary specials as the Big Three broadcasters cash in on viewers' newly discovered appetite for TV's golden oldies. Reunion shows are also far less costly to produce than the made-for-TV movies and mini-series that once ruled the sweeps.

The next four weeks mark the latest of three annual ratings periods when networks trot out big-event shows in a bid to boost their audience for the sake of local affiliates. "Sweeps" viewership is then used by local stations to set future advertising rates.

The prevailing obsession with the past was sparked by the surprise success of a "Carol Burnett Show" reunion last November on CBS. It drew nearly 30 million viewers and ranked as the season's highest-rated entertainment special, after the Academy Awards.

The May sweeps gets off to its sentimental start with a rerun of the "Carol Burnett" retrospective on Friday. Then Burnett returns Saturday as host of "CBS: 50 Years from Television City," a two-hour special highlighting shows produced on the network's famed Los Angeles sound stages, including "Playhouse 90," "All in the Family" and "The Sonny and Cher Comedy Hour."

Classic sitcom

CBS also has scheduled a 50th anniversary tribute to its classic 1950s Jackie Gleason sitcom, "The Honeymooners," and ABC will air a golden anniversary tribute to its long-running pop music showcase "American Bandstand," with Dick Clark returning as host of the special.

Clark will present clips of classic moments and introduce new performances by Michael Jackson, Cher, Alanis Morissette, Kiss, Stevie Wonder and the Village People.

At times, the nostalgia craze will be so frenzied that viewers may have a hard time choosing what to watch. A reunion of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" will air on CBS May 13 directly opposite "TV Guide's 50 Best Shows of All Time" on ABC.

Two other ABC specials prove no show of yore is too inane to get the golden oldie treatment—a "That's Incredible" reunion May 21, and "Laverne & Shirley Together Again," reuniting Penny Marshall and Cindy Williams on May 7, immediately followed by "Favorite Stars: Then & Now."

NBC has a slew of big-event shows celebrating its 75th anniversary in radio and television, topped by a three-hour special May 5 hosted live by some of the network's biggest stars, including Jerry Seinfeld, Bill Cosby and Kelsey Grammer.

10th anniversary

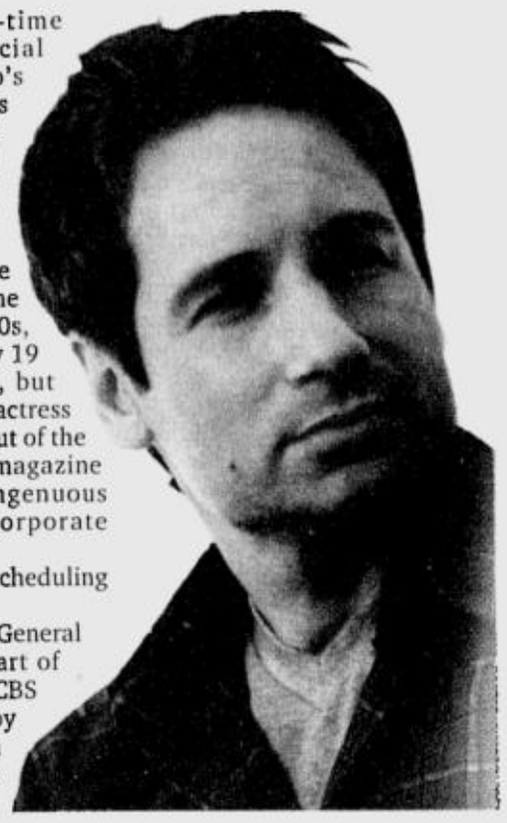
Other special tributes and reunion shows on NBC include "Bob Hope's Funniest Outtakes" and a prime-time "Tonight Show" special celebrating Jay Leno's 10th anniversary as host, plus "L.A. Law: The Movie" on May 12, and "20 Years of Must See TV" on May 20.

The cast of "The Cosby Show," one of the biggest hits of the 1980s, will return to NBC May 19 for a reunion special, but one of the Cosby kids, actress Lisa Bonet, has opted out of the show, telling People magazine the project "felt disingenuous and motivated by corporate profit."

NBC said she had a scheduling conflict.

NBC is a division of General Electric Co., ABC is part of The Walt Disney Co., CBS and UPN are owned by Viacom Inc., the WB is a unit of AOL Time Warner Inc. and the Fox network belongs to News Corp. Ltd.

Reuters



DUCHOVNY. Returns as Fox Mulder in last "X-Files" episode on May 19.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKSHELF

Merv Griffin's 'Book of People' is an interesting read

By Leia Torre

BORN in San Mateo, California on July 6, 1925, TV star Merv Griffin "came up though the ranks" in the classic sense, by entering talent contests, writing songs, and singing on a local radio station. He began his love affair with Hollywood at the famed Coconut Grove, while touring the United States as a boy singer with Freddy Martin and his orchestra.

Recording artist

Griffin also became a recording star with his classic hit, "I've Got a Lovely Bunch of Coconuts," as well as other hit songs, such as "Wilhelmina" and "Never Been Kissed."

He moved from radio to TV in the 1950s, first as a singer, then as a variety and game show host, and finally as the easygoing, enthusiastic host of his own successful syndicated celebrity talk show.

From the beginning, his career as a television talk show host was associated with that of Johnny Carson, who was considered the "king of late night talk" from the 1960s down through the 1980s.

GRIFFIN. Easygoing celebrity talk show host.

Griffin's first daytime talk show on NBC, the "Merv Griffin Show," began the same day as Carson's reign on the "Tonight Show," and he played an almost-consistent No. 2 to Carson's No. 1 as national talk show host.

Controversy

In this arena, he was considered the host who would accommodate more controversy t ın did his peers. At least, the Merv Griffin of the 1960s and early 1970s did. This was when he was still affiliated with CBS. His later shows, on Metromedia, were deemed "tepid" by most who had witnessed his earlier ones. In 1979, Griffin expanded his career to TV producing.

It was in this second arena, that of the daytime game show, that Griffin again influenced commercial television. A self-proclaimed "puzzle freak" since childhood, he began to establish his reputation as a game show developer at about the same time he launched his talk show career.

These shows include "Jeopardy!," produced by his company for NBC in March 1964, and "Wheel of Fortune," which premiered in January 1975. He has since built a business empire which includes radio stations, racehorses, hotels and vineyards.

In his book, "From Where I Sit: Merv Griffin's Book of People," Griffin shares "hundreds of candid, intimate, behind-the-camera thoughts, insights, and anecdotes from the world's most interesting personalities." Being a talk show host for more than 20 years gave him many opportunities to meet interesting people and attempt to uncover their thoughts and quirks.

Impact

This book, which he has written with Peter Barsocchini, makes the reader appreciate the impact Griffin's interviewees have had on his life and personal philosophy.

The people featured are classified into five categories, which make up the corresponding five parts of the book.

In order to avoid monotony, as well as to be able to feature more personalities, Griffin interjects little paragraphs of wit from other people into each chapter. Some of these interjections are not clearly related to the subject at hand, but most of them are.

The author offers his own opinion on the people he's writing about, but he does this in a very subtle manner, He also shares his own experiences with the interviewee to reveal a side to that person that has not been seen before. Each of the people included in the book has a story to tell, and Griffin has managed to share these stories with us in a particularly interesting way.

Give childhood a chance on 'Star for a Night'

By Nestor U. Torre

VIVA TV's 'Star for a Night" talent search program produced its first monthly winners last Sunday in 12-year-old Angeli Flores and Fil-Australian Roxanne Castro. The fact that there were two winners instead of one indicates the high level of competition that the singing contest has achieved in only one month of telecasting.

Successful forays

This is a tribute to Filipinos' innate musical talent, which is no longer any surprise to anybody who's familiar with our musicians and singers' successful forays all over the world. Thus, the popularity of talent competitions like "Star for a Night."

We wonder though why the show can't seem to discover enough male singers. Each week, of the four contestants who vie for the prize, at least three are women, and none of the few men who have gotten into the program has won the weekly prize. Thus, last Sunday's monthly tilt had only female finalists.

Better way

We know that our male singers are every bit as talented as their female counterparts, so the program simply has to arrive at a better way to ferret them out.

Back to the first monthly finals: One of the finalists was only 13 years old, but was packaged as a young-adult performer. We feel that this is an incorrect move on the program's part. Let adolescents be adolescents, and they won't come off as trying-hard.

This worked in the favor of young Angeli Flores, one of the monthly tilt's two winners. She acted her age and sang the "young" song "Kailan," thus coming across as a natural, charming and appealing performer.

Fake-adult route

We hope that Angeli's victory will convince other young singers (and their parents!) to stop going the fake-adult route, and to give childhood a chance. It really is the most natural and logical way to go.

The other monthly winner, Roxanne Castro, has a strong voice but has to lose some weight to come into her own as an effectively-packaged performer.

To her credit, Roxanne achieved a good integration of dancing and singing in her number, with her occasional dance steps enhancing rather than upstaging her vocal performance, or affecting her voice placement.

Smitten

But it was Angeli who got most of the judges' compliments. They were clearly smitten by her unique combination of good looks, strong voice and youth.

They praised her for "the right choice of song, outfit, total look and treatment; ability to internalize the song's meaning; natural projection and interpretation; and a good blend of the right age for both song and singer."

Those positive notes will serve Angeli Flores in good stead as she pursues her performing career, in the months and years ahead.

Letting go

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

HOW easy do we make it for people to leave us everytime they travel, or when death takes them away from us?

Peaceful

Everytime we are separated from people, we can make the atmosphere either peaceful and calm, or stressful and depressing. We can make our last goodbye most joyful and meaningful or full of anguish and despair. Our behavior and words at the time of separation can either make it easy for the person to leave or more difficult and painful for him to go away.

Our relationships in this world will come to an end sooner or later. Separation is inevitable. And thus, we must learn how to make separation full of meaning and joy, rather than pain and despair. Here are some things to remember whenever we come to the point of separation from our friends and loved ones:

Inevitable change

1. Hysterical crying and sobbing breaks the heart of a departing person. Such actions must be avoided and overcome with wisdom and intelligence. We must always remember the temporary and changing nature of this material world and not be carried away by the forces of inevitable change and destruction of the status quo.

We must remain steady in the face of difficulties by taking shelter in the Supreme Person. The things of this world perish and die, but the imperishable continues to exist. And in the Supreme Person, we find the greatest comfort and refuge.

2. Saying, "Don't leave me, don't go," puts the departing person in a very difficult situation. He is forced by circumstance such as death, obligation, etc. to go away and we are trying to hold him back from continuing with his journey.

We must see that if it is truly his time to go, we must let him leave and we must let go. We must not think of ourselves but of how to make the separation less painful for the departing person.

3. "How will we live when you are gone? What will happen to us?" These words put a burden on the departing person. He is asked to fix everything although he is now incapable of doing so.

Not only that, his relatives want him to carry the burden further for the rest of the clan!

Unfair

This is terribly unfair to the departing soul. He is not the Supreme Controller, nor the Supreme Provider. Everyone is already bound by his own good and bad karmic reactions. People will receive their share of pleasures and sufferings according to their own deeds. The presence or absence of an ordinary person in a family or group will not change the awards handed down according to the law of karma.

What will happen when a loved one leaves? Our lives will continue and the happiness and distress we experience will be entirely up to us. The kind of life we lead is not dependent on those who are with us, or those who leave.

4. Separation from our friends and relatives must remind us of our real separation from our Best Friend and Father. We yearn for our temporary relatives but we have our eternal relationship that is neglected and forgotten. Separation from our true Beloved is what makes life truly painful, empty and lonely.

We must pray to be reunited with Him. If we are united in love with the Supreme, then we will not be devastated by the departure of friends and relatives. If we have everything—the source of all happiness—then nothing can take away our inner happiness, joy and peace. If we have God, then everything is in His hands and our life is perfect.

LIMON (center) with students and teachers.

Sylvia S. Limon, Marymount School and CLC founder

From page G3

The school commits itself "to foster critical thinking skills, continuous spiritual and moral formation of values, to develop skills responsive to the needs of the times, to instill pride in being Filipino in a global context, and to nurture conscientious individuals who are responsible, honest, generous and caring members of society."

According to the assistant directress, Ms Agnes Baduria, the original three-story building on J. Villaroman st., BF Homes, Parañaque has added another floor to accommodate more students, and another four-story building for the High School Department has been constructed in the same compound.

The majority of their graduates go on to De La Salle University for college degrees, or Saint Benilde, UP, Ateneo, UAP and Saint Benedict College.

For more information call Marymount at 809-5017 or 809-4488, loc. 107, and CLC Makati at 890-2474.

Kristine enjoys life's simple pleasures

By Jocelyn Valle

KRISTINE Hermosa has mastered the art of shedding real tears as she plays the *api-apihan* character of Ina on Channel 2's "Pangako sa 'Yo." "*Oo*," she agrees, "*masakit sa dibdib. Pero mas mahirap kapag gumamit ng* eyedrops. *Kailangan din kasi ng* real emotion."

Cameras

Being in the biz for the last six years has also familiarized Kristine with TV and film production work. For instance, she can explain the different types of cameras used in shooting particular scenes. "*Parati ko kasing naririning 'yan sa* set," she smiles.

But she hastily shakes her head when asked if she aspires to

KRISTINE/p.G6

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Monique del Mar and Gabe Mercado join cast of 'Videoke King'

MERCADO. Promising comic.

By Remy M. Umerez

TWO of the stars in "Videoke King," Star Cinema's 9th anniversary presentation, are products of exclusive schools. They are Talent Center's Monique del Mar and promising comic Gabe Mercado.

Schooling

Monique has Irish and Fil/Spanish blood running in her veins. Her family allowed her to join show business provided she finished her schooling. From elementary to high school, Monique was an Assumptionista. She graduated with a degree in Interior Design from another school.

Monique's love for acting led her to join ABS-CBN's Star Circle, Batch 9. Prior to that, she was already modeling for print commercials endorsing beauty and skin care products, lingerie and swimwear and even gasoline products. She lived in Hong Kong for three years working as a print model for an agency.

She is introduced in "Videoke King" playing Ningning, the girlfriend of Robin Padilla who goes abroad for employment. When she returns, she is shocked to learn that her boyfriend has fallen in love with another girl, played by Pops Fernandez.

Naturally, she gets nasty with Pops and a confrontation ensues, but no slapping or hair pulling transpires.

Mainstay

Monique is a mainstay of "Klasmeyts" a live sitcom directed by Johnny Manahan. She says her every move in the weekly show is monitored by her conservative family because they are concerned about the green dialogue or double talk used by the cast.

For his part, Gabe Mercado appeared in several plays for Tanghalang Ateneo during his college days. He was also a member of a band known as "Da Pulis" which performed in school functions.

The son of writer Monina Mercado, Gabe worked for an advertising firm before joining show business. Movie offers came after he appeared in a commercial where he endorsed a toilet tissue product.

In "Videoke King" he works again with Robin Padilla. Some sort of an extended bonding, since they initially acted together in the defunct sitcom, "Pwedeng Pwede."

"It was while filming 'Videoke King' that I got married and Robin and I had a long talk about married life. I find him a very concerned person, very responsible and he respects my views on sensitive matters about faith and religion," he says.

Gabe plays the loyal friend of Robin in the comedy-romance movie directed by Jerry Sineneg Lopez. He supplies wholesome humor and even some words of wisdom.

Gabe's wife is a professional clown in real life. The two want to have plenty of children, since they are both fond of kids.

'Scorpion King' retains box-office title belt

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES—"The Scorpion King" ruled the box office for a second straight weekend with $17.6 million, but its reign is about to end with the arrival of another hero that's part man, part bug.

One of the most hotly awaited comic-book adaptations ever, "Spider-Man" opens this weekend and is expected to put an early spin on the summer blockbuster season.

Total summer movie

"This is one of the most anticipated movies of the year," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations. "It's a total summer movie. It's exactly what people want in summer."

"Scorpion King" distributor Universal wisely chose to slip its action flick into the lineup two weeks ahead of "Spider-Man." Starring pro wrestler The Rock in a spinoff of "The Mummy" franchise, "The Scorpion King" debuted with $36.1 million last weekend, a record for a film opening in April.

The movie has taken in $60.8 million in its first 10 days.

Visibility

"We gave ourselves two full weeks with a lot of visibility and no real competition out there," said Nikki Rocco, head of distribution for Universal. "It turns out to have been a very successful strategy."

The thriller "Changing Lanes" held the No. 2 spot for the second straight weekend with $9 million, pushing its 17-day total to $44.6 million.

This weekend's main new films had weak debuts.

The romantic comedy "Life or Something Like It," starring Angelina Jolie as a shallow TV journalist coping with a street soothsayer's prediction that she's about to die, opened in third place with $6.65 million.

"Jason X," a sci-fi update of the "Friday the 13th" horror franchise, premiered at No. 4 with $6.5 million.

Playing in 2,606 theaters, "Life or Something Like It" averaged an anemic $2,552 a cinema, compared with $5,103 in 3,449 theaters for "The Scorpion King." "Jason X" averaged $3,461 in 1,878 theaters.

Slasher films

Box-office receipts for slasher films tend to tumble steeply after opening weekend because the hardcore horror crowd already has come and gone. "Life or Something Like It" might hold up better because its largely female audience gave it good grades and competition is scarce for movies about women, said Rick Myerson, general sales manager for 20th Century Fox, which distributed the film.

The overall box-office rose for the 11th straight weekend. The top 12 movies grossed $69.8 million, up 27 percent from the same weekend last year.

Domestic movie revenues are running 15 to 16 percent ahead of the pace last year, when Hollywood had a record annual total of $8.4 billion.

Limited release

In limited release, Val Kilmer's thriller "The Salton Sea" opened strongly, grossing $175,000 at 15 theaters for a healthy $11,667 average. Kilmer plays a jazz trumpeter on Los Angeles' mean streets seeking revenge for his wife's murder.

The documentary "Dogtown and Z-Boys," a film-festival hit about the birth of extreme skateboarding in the 1970s, debuted in 20 theaters with $111,170 for a $5,559 average.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at North American theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc:

1. "The Scorpion King," $17.6 million.
2. "Changing Lanes," $9 million.
3. "Life or Something Like It," $6.65 million.
4. "Jason X," $6.5 million.
5. "Murder by Numbers," $6.3 million.
6. "The Rookie," $5.4 million.
7. "Ice Age," $4.6 million.
8. "Panic Room," $4.2 million.
9. "High Crimes," $3 million.
10. "The Sweetest Thing," $2.9 million. AP

JOLIE. Her movie "Life or Something Like It' was No. 3.

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INQUIRER

Old mind-sets die hard on 'Who Wants to be a Princess'

By Nestor U. Torre

THE RETURN of some Star TV channels to Sky Cable screens has enabled us to catch the weird TV special, "Who Wants to Be a Princess." This competition is reminiscent of the "Who Wants to Marry A Multi-Millionaire" tilt some years back, with 10 winsome finalists competing for the love and lucre (not necessarily in that order) of a very wealthy man.

No prize catch

We all know the way *that* contest unravelled after the "lucky" bride-to-be was announced. It turned out that the multi-millionaire who had chosen her was not quite the prize catch he had been built up to be, and their "dream" wedding turned out to be quite a nightmare.

"Who Wants to be a Princess' is not quite as cynical in its belief in arranged unions between beautiful but relatively impoverished women and a fantastically desirable man. No royal wedding is promised for the winner, just the chance to spend a vacation at the prince's "palace," and to meet his parents (who are definitely not a king and queen).

Scaled-down expectations

These scaled-down expectations are all to the good, but they can't quite cover up the competition's coldly pragmatic underpinnings. Sure, the finalists try not to sound like goldiggers, sweetly talking instead about the fact that becoming a princess is every girl's dream. And the prince, once he's finally revealed, gallantly makes it a point to compliment *all* of the finalists for their beauty, goodness, brilliance, etc.

When push comes to shove, however, it's still the spectacle of 10 young women competing for the expensive favors of a man they've never met. Thus, when the prince finally makes his grand entrance towards the end of the show, he's a bit of a letdown.

Flats

Oh, he's a prince, alright, and he looks much better than a frog, but he turns out to be shorter than the winner he's picked. Well, if they do end up getting royally hitched, she can always wear flats during the wedding ceremony!

The special's style may be dreamy, glamorous and romantic, with more than a few nods in the direction of "Cinderella," "Sleeping Beauty" ad "The Frog Prince," but it's still a showcase for women who are willing to "sell" themselves to the highest bidder—in this case, a vertically-challenged member of royalty.

Royal life

The fact that some beautiful women would compete to live the royal life in this day and age goes to show that old gender-exploitative mind-sets and practices die hard.

All the more reason, then, for TV to desist from further perpetuating and even aggravating those tacky and politically incorrect traditions by producing shows like "Who Wants to Be a Princess."

Kristine enjoys life's simple . . .

From page G4

become a director in the future. What she wants, Kristine asserts, is to own either a gasoline station or a beauty salon, after she's bought her dream house and lot.

Kristine believes in investing her show business earnings sensibly, that's why she was delighted to be chosen as the spokesperson for ABE International College of Business and Accountancy, which has designed for her a special certificate course that suits her needs, schedule and qualifications.

Tight schedule

The 18-year-old TV star's schedule is so tight that she hasn't completed her secondary schooling yet. She doesn't have to be reminded by her talent management, ABS-CBN's Talent Center, which has issued a memo telling its talents to pay attention to their studies and finish high school, at least. Kristine really values education.

"It's just that I don't have the time," she sighs, vowing that she'll do a lot better this coming school year as a student of the ABS-CBN Distance Learning Center. In college, she would like to pursue her interest in fine arts. Otherwise, she can earn her business degree at ABE College, which also provides ample Information Technology support to its students.

Meantime, Kristine has been learning a lot from her personal experiences. For three months, she tried to live alone in a condominium unit located near her mother studio. "*Natuto akong mag-isa,*" she shares. "*Nakakuha ako ng* driver's license *nang mag-isa. Nakapag-*drive *ako sa* taping *nang mag-isa.*"

She clarifies, though, that she didn't have a spat with her mom, with whom she's very close. She just wants to try to live independently.

Careers

Late this year, Kristine relates, her family will be migrating to Canada. She and her eldest sister Kathleen will stay there only for two weeks, and will fly back to the country to carry on with their respective acting careers. (Kathleen is in the cast of the Judy Ann Santos-headlined *teleserye*, "Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka," and appears in various other shows on Channel 2.)

Kristine would like to spend more time with her family, for which reason she decided to cut short her "experiment" in solo living.

What's the first thing that she checked out upon returning back to their family abode? "My room," she replies, grinning. "*Tinignan ko kung maayos. At may* water heater *na ako sa* bathroom *ko.*"

Kristine is glad that she's still able to enjoy life's simple pleasures that show business has a way of obliterating. "*Nagagawa ko pa rin 'yung mga bagay na ginagawa ko* before *pumasok ako sa* show biz," she smiles.

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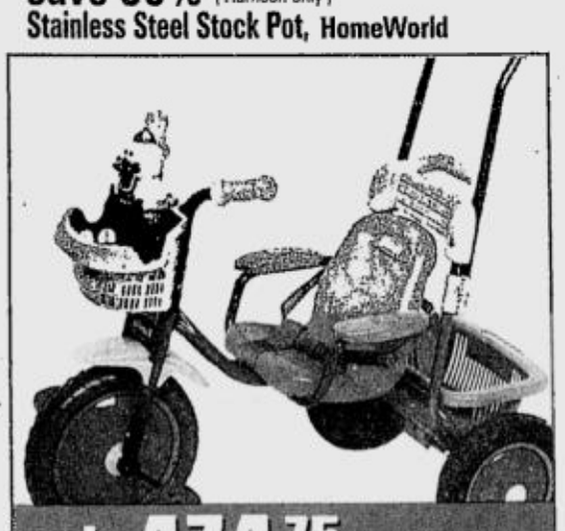

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SATURDAY Special

Where will you go this summer to beat the heat?

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

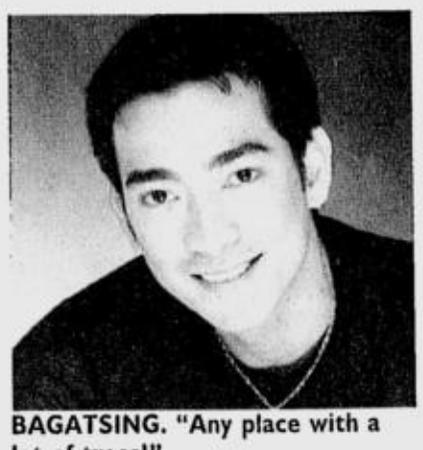
IF busy schedules and bank accounts allow, it would be great to head for a much cooler place during the summer. One can escape not only the heat, but also the stress, traffic and pollution. We asked several entertainers where their dream vacations would be, and what would they pack in their luggage. Their responses:

Brian Velasco (drums, Razorback) wants to own a house in Boracay, Milan or in the South of France, because he loves to travel.

"I love Paris! I also love New York despite the pollution and crime rate, because of the characters there. Cultures converge there—Italians, Mexicans, Jews, Filipinos, whites and blacks.

Beach

"But for summer, nothing beats the beach! When I make it big someday, I'm going to buy a house in Boracay or Puerto Galera. I'm going to retire there."



BAGATSING. "Any place with a lot of trees!"

Ned Esguerra (bass, FreeVerse) loves music so much that he brings it with him even if he's on vacation. "If I had the time, I would tour the whole Philippines. I will travel light, *magiging* backpacker *para* adventure *talaga. Bahala na kung anong mahanap ko doon.*

"Ang dadalhin ko sa tour, either *maliit na* keyboard o *guitar para makapagsulat pa rin ako ng kanta.* Maybe I'll be inspired by the places I visit. *Para kapag bumalik ako galing sa bakasyon, may mga kanta na kaming mare*-record."

Joel Tolentino (drums, FreeVerse) chimes in that the beach is also the perfect vacation spot for him. "*Sa Batangas ako pupunta. Dati* every summer, *kaming mga magba-barkada* would go on vacation. This year *hindi na mga ka-banda ko ang isasama ko, ibang barkada naman.*

CD player

"Dadalhin ko yung CD player *at mga* favorite CDs *ko*: Madonna's 'Something to Remember,' South Border's 'Live Album,' and 'Compilation' by Hemisphere (techno)."

Andy Garcia (lead guitar, FreeVerse) fell in love with Cebu when they performed there. "Cebu is a good place for a short vacation. Must-haves for my trip are my cell phone, ATM card, credit cards and Palm pilot."

Bong Maquito (keyboards, FreeVerse) loves food and hates to

WHERE/ p.H2

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Per DOH-BFAD No. 0148 Series of 2002

Leno wants end to decade-long rift with Letterman

LOS ANGELES—The king of late-night comedy is celebrating a major anniversary, 10 years as host of NBC's "Tonight Show;" but Jay Leno says he still wishes he could be friends with the man he beat out for the job.

Good show

"Everybody's fat, everybody's happy, what's the problem?" Leno said, bemoaning the decade-old chill in the air between him and CBS "Late Show" host, David Letterman. "I have no problems with Dave. I like Dave. I probably watch his show at least three nights a week. He does a good show, makes me laugh . . . I would like to be friends."

Looking back at those 10 years, Leno said John F. Kennedy Jr.'s 1998 guest appearance was personally an emotional high point, and he still fondly recalls his own very first night on the program, then hosted by predecessor Johnny Carson.

"Your first 'Tonight Show' is kinda like your first girlfriend—you're not very good at it, it's over real quick, but you want to do it again," Leno joked about his 1977 debut.

Sore point

But friction with Letterman remains a sore point for Leno, whose show gets a bigger audience despite critics' general preference for Letterman.

The feud dates back to Leno being chosen over Letterman, then NBC's late-late-night host, to take over "The Tonight Show" when Carson retired in 1992. Letterman later jumped to CBS to host the "Late Show" in direct competition with Leno.

Letterman led in the ratings for the first two years of their rivalry; but Leno rose to No, 1 in 1995, helped by actor Hugh Grant's famed "Tonight Show" mea culpa about his soliciting a prostitute, and has remained on top since.

Leno, who turns 52 next week, made waves in a recent TV Guide interview in which he expressed bewilderment that Letterman never had anything nice to say about him publicly and said, "I don't know why there has to be such animosity."

The head of Letterman's production company, Rob Burnett, was quoted in that article as saying. "We'd be more inclined to praise Jay if we didn't hear from

LETTERMAN AND LENO. Feuding late-night hosts.

people privately he bad-mouths us at every turn."

Leno dismissed Burnett's comment, telling reporters, "If you can find anything that I've ever said negative about Dave, Geez, I will certainly be the first to apologize."

"Two guys go out for a job, one guy gets it. What am I supposed to do, quit? Am I not supposed to take this job?" Leno said. "So it's 10 years, well, all right, whatever."

Favorite joke

In his telephone chat with reporters, Leno also mused about the days of the Clinton White house sex scandal as the "golden age of comedy" ("Sex, money, power, handsome men, chubby girls, what's more fun than that?"), lamented today's cutthroat TV business, and showed off his favorite joke about actor Robert Blake's arrest on murder charges. "Yesterday, Robert Blake pleaded not guilty, which is his first speaking part in eight years."

Comparing "The Tonight Show" of today with its early years under the stewardship of Steve Allen and Jack Paar, Leno said the heightened focus on ratings and the bottom line leaves him less room to showcase obscure acts to indulge in esoteric, deep conversations with his guests.

"This is a corporation now, and every little bit of it, every hour, every minute, has got to produce something . . . or they try something else," he said.

NBC is owned by General Electric Co. while CBS is part of Viacom Inc.

Leno said that being funny has been especially challenging since the Sept. 11attacks.

Heaviness

"Oh, my gosh, you can feel the weight, you can feel the heaviness when you got out there," he said. "And you go, 'Well, this it why you get paid the money, try and cheer 'em up.'"

Asked to recall his most memorable moment on the show, Leno said JFK Jr.'s appearance on May 14, 1998, sprang to mind as an emotional high point for him because at the time, it evoked vivid memories of seeing his mother sobbing while watching the televised funeral fo President John F. Kennedy in 1963 and seeing the young "John John" saluting his father's casket.

"I spoke to John F. Kennedy Jr. in the dressing room for half an hour (before the show), but it wasn't until he walked out on the show and I shook his hand and he sat down, and I saw him sitting there, and then I flashed back to my mom, crying on the couch," Leno said. "I never thought that I would meet that boy and then be able to say to my mother, 'Hey, it's OK.'"

Kennedy died in a plane crash off Martha's Vineyard the following summer.

Leno's one-hour 10th anniversary show aired at 10 p.m. EDT on April 30, one of a series of specials celebrating NBC's 75 years as a broadcast network.

Then he'll just go back to doing what he says he does best. "To give you a smile before you go to bed. ***Reuters***

Laurice Guillen to discuss film industry's social role at 'Philippine PR Summit II'

MULTI-AWARDED film director and actress Laurice Guillen-Feleo, who is also the president of the Film Development Foundation of the Philippines, will outline the critical role of the Philippine movie industry in shaping social positive values at the "Philippine Public Relations Summit II," to be held at the Makati Shangri-La on May 23.

GUILLEN. Multi-awarded director and actress.

Different perspectives

Guillen-Feleo will be among a distinguished panel of speakers composed of representatives from the private and government sectors, who will all view from different perspectives the theme, "PR's One True Challenge: What Can We Do For Our Country?"

Within the theme, "Philippine Public Relations Summit II" will gather together practitioners in public relations, advertising, marketing, mass communication as well as businessmen and women, teachers and students, to listen to views of speakers addressing this issue, including Guillen-Feleo's.

She will share with her audience insights into the problems of the industry, as well as some of the influences that have helped her become one of the country's most eminent film directors and performers.

Widely praised

Some of her most recent works are "Tanging Yaman," awarded Best Picture in 2000 by several award-giving bodies, and "American Adobo," a Filipino film shot in the United States that was widely praised.

Guillen-Feleo has received awards from prestigious bodies like the Urian Awards, the Catholic Mass Media Awards, and the Metro Manila Film Festival. She holds an M.A. in Communication Arts form the Ateneo de Manila University.

Those who would like to listen to Guillen-Feleo at the "Philippine PR Summit II" may call 7257891, 7265132 or 7275251 and look for Lemon Gorospe, email prsummit2@virtusio.com or visit www.virtusio.com/prsummit2 for more details. "Philippine PR Summit II" is sponsored by Philip Morris, Manila Bulletin and dzFE-FM.

Lynn Sherman finally comes out with an album

By Rito P. Asilo

LYNN Sherman always loves trying new things to see what more she can do. That is not saying that she does them without nerves, although one doesn't really notice it when she performs.

Rehearsals

But ask the stagehands and production people who see her during rehearsals and they will tell you how amazed they are at how different she is onstage and off. Presence has always been Lynn's strongest asset as a performer.

Whether performing in live concerts (with Bond Samson's Ugoy Ugoy Band), telling women's intimate stories (in "The Vagina Monologues"), scaring and infuriating kids with her *contravida* turns in children's musicals (like Crustacea in "The Little Mermaid"), or playing a plain-looking, insecure homemaker (in New Voice's upcoming dark musical comedy ``Falsettos," this June), Lynn has managed to constantly recreate herself in ways only a handful of artists, like Madonna, can pull off convincingly—without the attitude.

Recently, Lynn has found another medium—recording. To mark this latest endeavor, she treated friends and the press to a live sampling of what her debut album, "Friends," has to offer, and, boy, what a treat that was!

Trance music

Dish, one of Manila's toasts of the *gimik* crowd at the classy Rockwell Center, was already cordoned off and throbbing with the latest trance music when we got there. The place was bursting with people, a lot of them familiar faces from Manila's theater community who came in droves to give Lynn support.

We were lucky we found the perfect spot to watch the performance from. It was a bit of a long wait before Lynn finally came out,

LYNN/ p.H3

SHERMAN. Loves to try new things.

Where will you go this summer . . .

From page H1

sweat. "*Sa* Baguio *ako pupunta para mag*-relax *at magbakasyon. Magdadala ako ng maraming pagkain,* CDs at tapes. *Ngayon,* South Border *ang pinakikinggan ko, pero magbabago yung* taste *ko depende sa* mood *ko.*"

Railey Valeroso would go to Baguio this summer because it's cool and relaxing. "I love cool weather, that's why I always go to Baguio. But my dream vacation would be in Europe. I'd like to see the Eiffel Tower.

"I'd also like to go to the States. I'd bring my CDs while on vacation because I like sound-tripping and watching basketball games."

Snorkeling

AJ Eigelmann likes the beach and would go to Boracay. "I'd go snorkeling there. Someday I'd like to go on a European tour and see the key cities of Europe. When I'm on vacation, I just eat, sleep and watch TV so I'll just pack the basics."

ISIDRO. Believes in planned trips.

Brian Revilla's favorite vacation spot is at home because he loves playing video games. "I like staying at home because I can rest there. My dream place would be heaven because I could see the people I've missed! I like to see my Lola again."

Raymond Bagatsing likes to meditate and commune with nature. "I'd like to go to Australia for a vacation. This summer, however, I'd settle for the beach or any place with a lot of trees.

"Being with nature helps me meditate and contemplate. I like to check myself sometimes and just listen to my heart and soul. I'd like also to dive."

Agot Isidro claims that she loves to travel but it can't be a spontaneous activity. "I love to travel *pero kailangan planuhin ko.* Getting away can be good to the mind, body and soul, only if you take three days off. *Basta* change of scenery *lang.*

"Jim Paredes taught me to make a list of 100 things I want to do in my life. I wrote: ski in Aspen, trek the mountains and go to Africa. My dream vacation would really be in Africa. I've been to Paris, Europe and New York, but Africa is a different world. You don't know what to expect because the place is so exotic.

"My favorite place here in the Philippines is Palawan. *Maganda, parang wala ka sa* Pilipinas. It's so soothing to be there. On vacation, I'd pack I few self-help books, or anything that's interesting."

Sharmaine Suarez wants to travel around the world and become a philanthropist. "If I had the money, I would travel all over. I love children, so I'd visit orphanages around the world."

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM MAY 4 – MAY 10

CH	7	11	5	23	9	3	27	29	31
	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:00 Mary D' Potter 9:00 Da Pilya en Da Pilot 10:00 Kakasa Ka Ba? 10:30 Sapul Kayo Dyan 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited	6:00 MBA 11:00 Business and Leisure	6:30 Wing Commander 7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Celebrity Family Feud 8:30 Wow Mali!! 9:30 Saturday Night Specials *Red Line*	5:30 Hunter X Hunter 6:00 Imbestigador 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 Pinoy Blockbuster 11:00 Master Showman Presents	6:00 Entertainment Tonite 6:30 Hot Tickets 7:00 Largo 8:00 7 Days 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *Safe Passage*	8:00 Star For a Night 9:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 10:00 Viva Box Office 11:00 IBC Elorde	7:00 Explorer 7:30 7th Heaven 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Reel Deal	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El Coming Attractions 7:00 Extreme Close-Up *John Leguizamo* 7:30 Nearly Famous 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story *The Menendez Brothers* 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Celebrity Profile
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Digimon 7:30 Wansapanataym 9:00 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:30 Off The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Fox News 9:00 NBA 11:30 Unlimited Diving	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guylerd 7:00 Price is Right 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 The Big Night *Muhammad Ali: When We Were Kings* 11:00 Fashion TV	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 K! 8:00 Daddy Di Do Du 9:00 Sunday Night Box Office 11:00 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Things to Do in Denver When You're Dead* 11:00 Road Trip	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:00 PBA Game 2 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Sinemaks	6:00 Rugrats 6:30 Starship Troopers 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Grosse Pointe 8:30 Veronica's Closet 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Temptation Island 10:30 Twilight Zone 11:00 News Central	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	E! Returns to the 2002 Academy Awards 6:00 Live From the Red Carpet (Pre Show) 8:00 Sexiest Red Carpet Outfits 9:00 Best Red Carpet Moments 10:00 The 2002 Academy Awards (Post Show)
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 9:00 FPJ Action Cinema 10:30 Headlines 11:00 The Correspondents	6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Formula 1 Racing	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 F 7:00 Mahiha Go Go Go 7:30 Wheel Of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Poltergeist: The Legacy 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Marimar 7:00 Monica Brava 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 GMA's Best 10:30 Front Page 11:00 I-Witness 12:00 TxTube	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 8:00 Jag 9:00 Sons of Thunder 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Sex & The City	6:00 Viva's Hot Hits 8:00 Crayon Shin Chan 8:30 Kurochan 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Carita de Angel 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 News	5:00 Beat UK 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Hidden Camera 8:00 Dark Angel 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Pop My MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Live 7:00 Celebrity Adventures *South African Safari* 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Claudia Jennings* 9:00 El News Live 9:30 Talk Soup 10:00 Best of Late Show 11:00 Wild on *Baja*
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 9:00 Oka Tokat 9:30 Allagirl 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Pipol	6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Pulsong Masa 11:00 Auto Focus	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Dragon League 7:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 E.R. 9:30 Urban Doktor 10:00 The Big News 10:00 Mad TV	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Marimar 7:00 Monica Brava 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 Kool Ka Lang 10:30 Front Page 11:00 The Probe Team 12:00 TxTube	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:30 NBI Files	6:00 PBA Games 8:00 PBA Games 10:00 The Weakest Link 11:00 News	5:30 Storytellers 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Popular 8:30 Angel 9:30 Just Shoot Me 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Pop My MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Live 7:00 Extreme Close-Up *Robert Altman* 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 El News Live 9:30 Talk Soup 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild on *Road*
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 9:00 Whattamen 9:30 Klasmeyts 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Private Conversation	4:00 PBL Chairman's Cup 6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 PBL Chairman's Cup	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Pygmalio 7:00 Time Quest 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Friends 9:00 That '70s Show 9:30 Planet X 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Philippines Most Wanted	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Marimar 7:00 Monica Brava 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 Beh Bote Nga 10:30 Front Page 11:30 Jessica Soho Reports 12:00 TxTube	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Higher Ground 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Fugitive 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Wrestling	7:00 Kagat ng Dilim 8:00 Crayon Shin Chan 8:30 Kurochan 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Carita de Angel 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 News	5:00 Behind The Music 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Scariest Places 8:30 Game Plan 9:00 The District 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:00 Pop My MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Live 7:00 Behind The Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 El News Live 9:30 Talk Soup 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *The West Indies*
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 9:00 Maalala Mo Kaya 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Isyu 101	4:00 Value Vision 6:00 Concert At The Park 7:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 NBA	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Shulato 7:00 Fancy Lala 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Guinnes World Records 9:30 The Exchange 10:00 The Big News 10:30 By Request *Joe*	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Marimar 7:00 Monica Brava 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 Kasangga 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Debate with Mare at Pare 12:00 TxTube	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Clueless 7:30 Sister, Sister 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Once and Again 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight	6:00 PBA Games 8:00 PBA Games 10:00 Who Wants To Be a Millionaire 11:00 News	5:30 MYX Concerts 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Barkada Nights 9:30 Night Visions 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Pop My MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Live 7:00 Extreme Close-Up *Jason Biggs* 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 El News Live 9:30 Talk Soup 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Sunset Strip*
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 9:00 Star Cinema Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 True Crime	6:00 PBL Chairman's Cup 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 PBL Chairman's Cup	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Lazer Patrol 7:00 Starcom 7:30 Wheel Of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Ispup 9:30 On-Air 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office *RobRoy*	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Marimar 7:00 Monica Brava 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 Bubble Gang 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Emergency 12:00 TxTube	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 That's Life 8:00 Malcolm In the Middle 8:30 Dharma & Greg 9:00 NYPD Blue 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 TV Greats on Friday	8:00 Crayon Shin Chan 8:30 Kurochan 9:00 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire 10:00 Carita de Angel 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 News	5:30 Halo-Halo 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Exposed 8:30 Survivor 9:30 Oh Grow Up! 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Pop My MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Live 7:00 Behind The Scenes *Blade 2* 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 El News Live 9:30 Talk Soup 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Rio*

How 'Maynila' was written for the big screen

By Nestor U. Torre

THANKS to all of the people who had good things to say about our piece on Lino Brocka's "Maynila, Sa Mga Kuko ng Liwanag" and its being cited as a masterpiece of world cinema. Let's hope that the singular achievement of Brocka's film will motivate our other gifted filmmakers to similarly commit themselves fully to the films they *really* want to make.

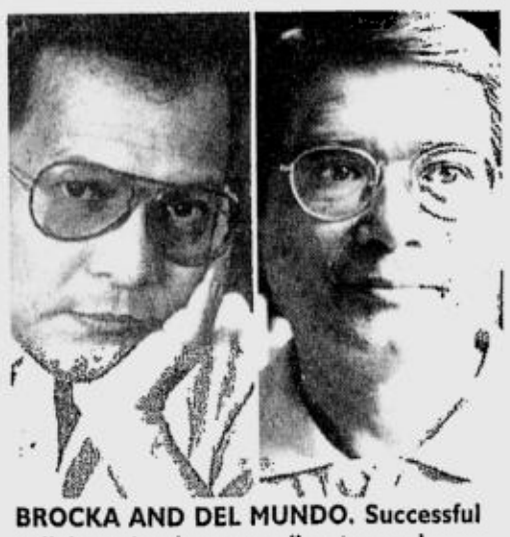
Student

Our own reminiscences about "Maynila" start even before Lino stepped into the picture. You see, its scriptwriter, Clodualdo "Doy" del Mundo, Jr., was our student at the Communication Department of the Ateneo Graduate School, and it was in our screenwriting class that Doy wrote the script for "Maynila," based on the novel by Edgardo Reyes.

That particular screenwriting class was *very* unusual: Doy was our only student! We really admired the Ateneo for not cancelling the subject due to lack of enrolment. A good thing, too, because that "class of one" produced the script for what would be one of Lino's and the Filipino movie industry's very best movies.

Sequences

How did the course go? Well, we met with Doy regularly in our office, one-on-one; he would show us the sequences he had written that week; we would comment on them, and



BROCKA AND DEL MUNDO. Successful collaboration between director and screenwriter.

we would then discuss the approach for the sequences to be submitted the following week.

Our notes mainly had to do with looking for visual correlatives for the original novel, making the dialogue briefer and more to the point, and more clearly distinguishing one character from another.

The work proceeded so speedily that, weeks before the semester ended, Doy had already completed the script for "Maynila" to our mutual satisfaction. What to do with the remaining weeks? Not to worry: Doy simply wrote *another* screenplay!

Special talent

That's when we realized what a special talent Doy was, eager to do much more than what was required of him. He was going to be a standout screenwriter, that was certain.

Doy's second script for the course was about the Filipino film industry from the innocent point of view of a little boy. Instructively, it has yet to be produced, more than 25 years after it was first written.

But we reread it recently, and we think that, one fine day this year, a director will get his hands on the little gem, and finally put it on the big screen. That would make Doy very happy. (At the moment, he's on his sabbatical, teaching screenwriting in Singapore until the end of the year.)

No takers

After the script of "Maynila" had been written, Doy got some filmmakers to read it, but there were no takers. They admired its quality and power, but felt that it wasn't what the commercial (generally escapist) movie industry was looking for.

They were right, of course—but that was the problem. If good screenplays like "Maynila" couldn't be made into films, how were the industry and its audience to rise above the formulaic and predictable "least common denominator" norm that had shackled them for years?

Then, years later, Lino read Doy's script and decided to film it, *contra mundum*. And a masterpiece of world cinema was finally born!

BEMBOL Roco as Julio Madiaga in Brocka's film.

Lynn Sherman

From page H2

clad in a glowing red sleeveless *cheongsam*. But the minute she crooned "Bridges," we knew we were going to enjoy the rest of her repertoire.

It was a great idea to mix tracks from the album ("Friends," the carrier, is a radio-friendly pop tune, and we wouldn't be surprised if we hear it in teen-oriented shows on the boob-tube one of these days) and dish out songs from her usual jazz line-up to pop, standards to OPM.

An advantage she had over other singers who do covers was that Lynn had her distinct, jazzy/bluesy vocal signature she always capped off with her controlled high-note bravado, a routine that gave her audience goosebumps.

When she sang her cover of the hauntingly nocturnal "Love Dance," we swore we heard Diane Schuur, GRP's blind virtuoso of contemporary jazz.

Varied repertoire

Lynn's powerful voice was not the only thing that made the evening memorable. The line-up was as varied as her roles onstage: The Corr's "Runaway;" Simon and Garfunkel's "Bridge Over Troubled Water;" "Meadowlark" (a touchingly sung, beautifully arranged version of the song from the musical, "The Baker's Wife"); ``Dawson's Creek's" anthem, "I Don't Wanna Wait" (with a lovely piano solo from Bond reminiscent of David Benoit's earlier music); Mon del Rosario's "Sino Ang Baliw?;" a medley of '70s and '80s movie theme songs ("Superman's" "Can You Read My Mind?"; "The Ice Castles'" "Looking Through the Eyes of Love"; "Fame's" "Out Here On My Own," songs that were huge hits among Filipinos because of their schmaltzy lyrical and melodic sentimentality), and even Elvis Presley's "Hound Dog."

A welcome number we heard on the show was her cover of Smokey Mountain's "Kailan," a beautiful Cayabyab song she recently recorded for Dunkin Donut's promotional CD, although the song generally speaks of teenage love (*"Aklat kong dala'y pinulot mo pa...Binti ko ba'y mayroong gasgas...Bawat araw sinusundan, 'Di ka naman tumitingin, ano'ng aking dapat gawin?..."*). Her rich vocalese was even more pronounced when she sang jazzy pop songs, like Swing Out Sisters' "Breakout," a show band anthem, and Incognito's infectious "Don't You Worry 'Bout A Thing."

Powerful voice

What made the show even more exciting was the appearance of Robert Seña, who lent his support *and* powerful voice. Robert and Bond go way back long before Robert found his place in the entertainment sun in London's "Miss Saigon."

In an all-white get-up, he performed his Frank Sinatra medley before Lynn joined him for a duet of Spiral Staircase's "More Today Than Yesterday," richly blending two powerful voices in a well-liked, but infrequently used, standard.

When we asked Lynn what adjustment she had to make to record her album, given that she was used to performing live, whether in musical theatre or in concerts, she explained, "You have to control your voice and hold back a bit. Live performers should be conscious of this when they record because they can't assault their listeners with ear-piercing volume the way it is done in live performances."

Indeed, this restraint was evident in the songs from her album, and we appreciated the consideration. We do not have anything against singers who "place" their voices all the time. But we admit we *did not* enjoy listening to Luciano Pavarotti sing "Wind Beneath My Wings" with all his classical singing prowess. Until now, a blaring line (*"Did you ever know that you're my hero..."*) from that version still rings in our subconscious!

Singing pop tunes the way they are sung is a world apart from singing "Nessun Dorma" as it should be sung, and we wouldn't listen because it is our ears that are on the line.

Fortunately, Lynn and her co-producers Bond, Bob Aves and Grace Nono are aware of this, or "Friends," "Sleepless" and the other nine tracks from the album would not have been as pleasant to listen to!

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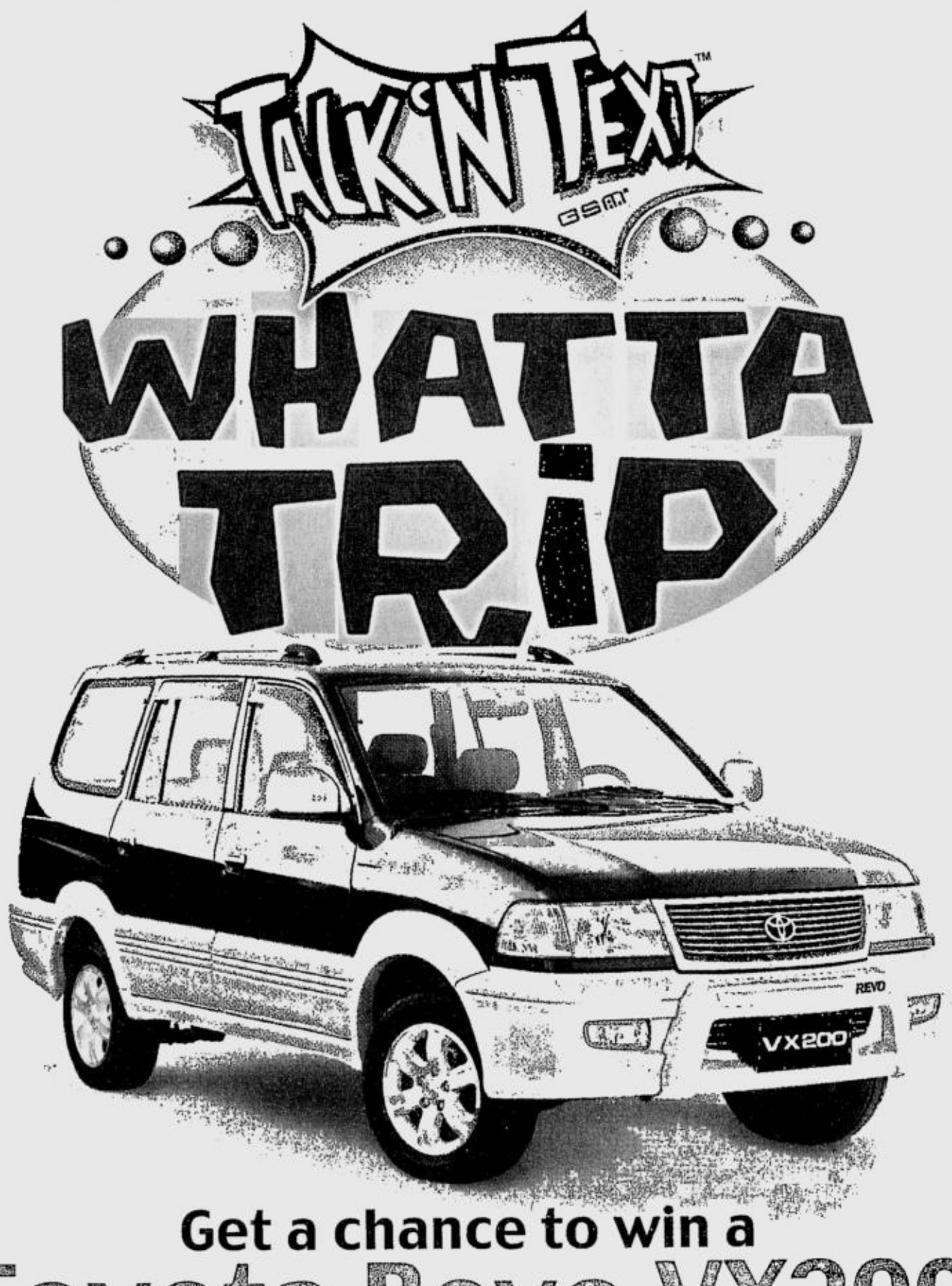

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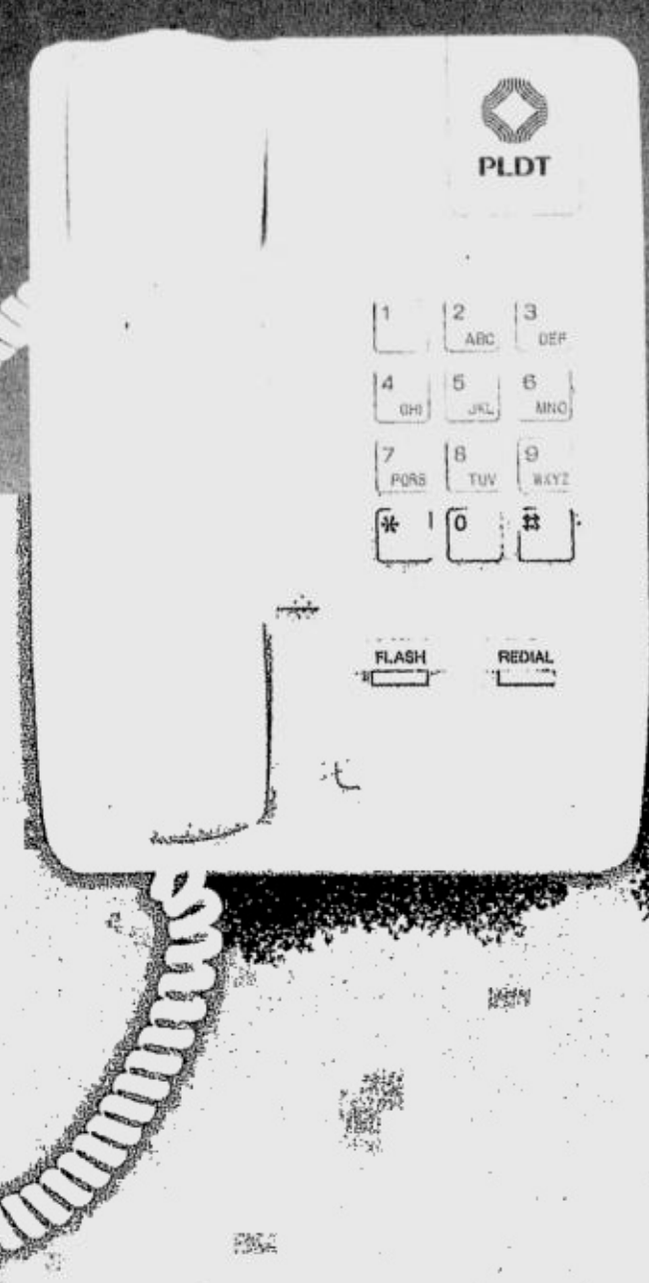

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Spaced Out

Cheers and tears as S. African space tourist blasts into space

BAIKONUR, Kazakhstan—The world's second space tourist blasted off to tears from his mother and cheers from countrymen who hailed him as the world's first "Afronaut."

"I'm not nervous. I'm ready," Mark Shuttleworth, 28, told Russian officials as he clambered into a white space suit before launch from Russia's Baikonur space base in Kazakhstan.

The Soyuz rocket carrying Shuttleworth, Russian space veteran Yuri Gidzenko and Italian pilot Roberto Vittori to the International Space Station blasted off on schedule on April 25.

Shuttleworth, an Internet entrepreneur whose ticket cost a reported $20 million, is the second amateur cosmonaut to pay his way into space. U.S. businessman Dennis Tito visited the space station a year ago.

Watching from the viewing platform as the Soyuz roared into a flawless blue sky were several members of Shuttleworth's family, including his parents and two brothers.

His mother, Ronelle, lifted her spectacles to wipe away tears during the final countdown. Earlier she said: "I'm sure he's going to have a wonderful time. I'll worry a little bit but I'm sure it will be fine."

In South Africa, where Shuttleworth had initially been criticized for spending a fortune on a lark, Nelson Mandela led the country in toasting him as the world's first "Afronaut."

"We wish him all the luck. We are happy to have a South African who has taken this journey," the 83-year-old former president told reporters at his Johannesburg home.

The Soyuz capsule was scheduled to link up with the space station in two days.

Shuttleworth, mission captain Gidzenko, 40, who has almost a year's worth of space days under his belt and Vittori, 37, a European Space Agency astronaut, are to spend eight days on the space station before returning to earth on May 5.

Shuttleworth's eight-month training stint at Star City outside Moscow was spared the controversy of Tito's flight. NASA had feared Tito, who was first scheduled to visit the now-defunct Mir station, might endanger himself

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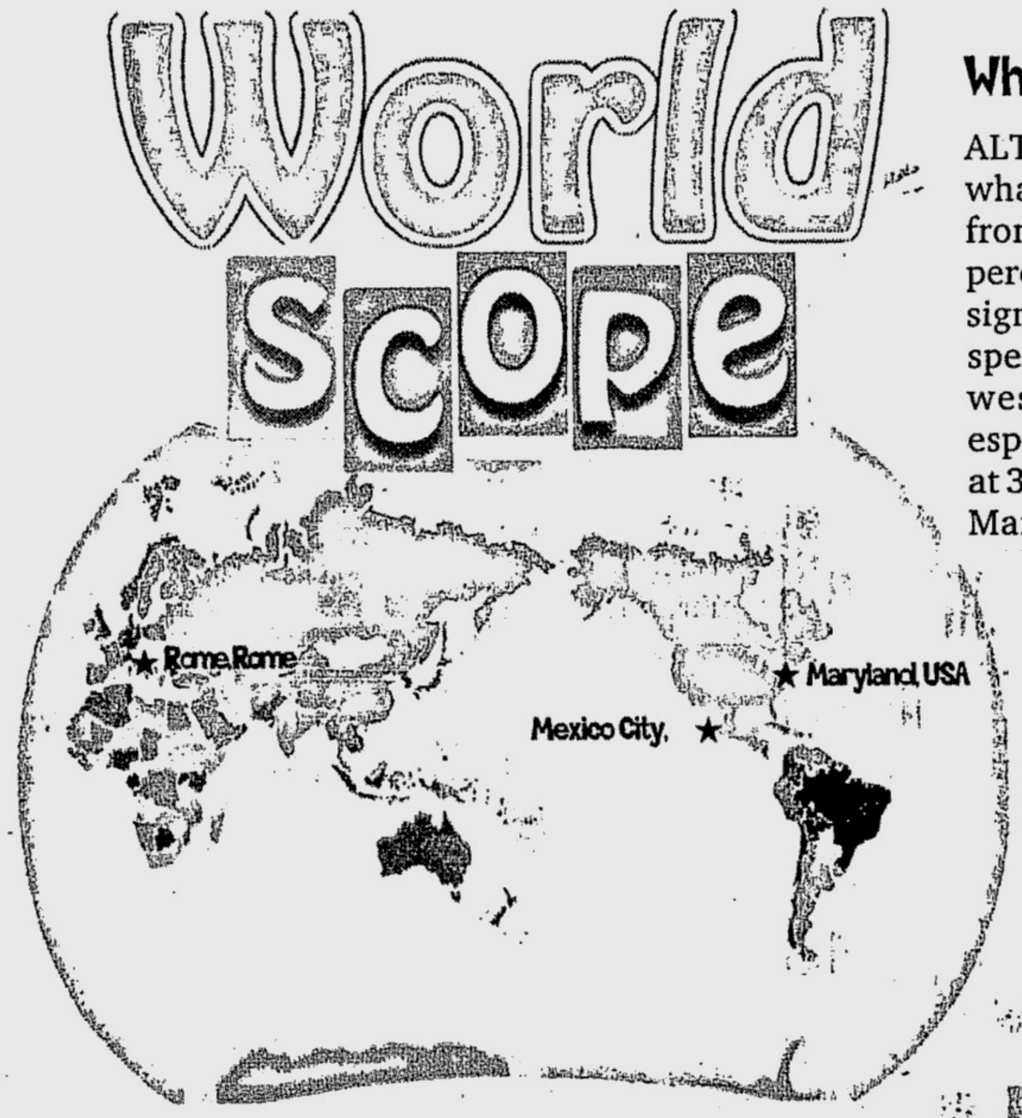
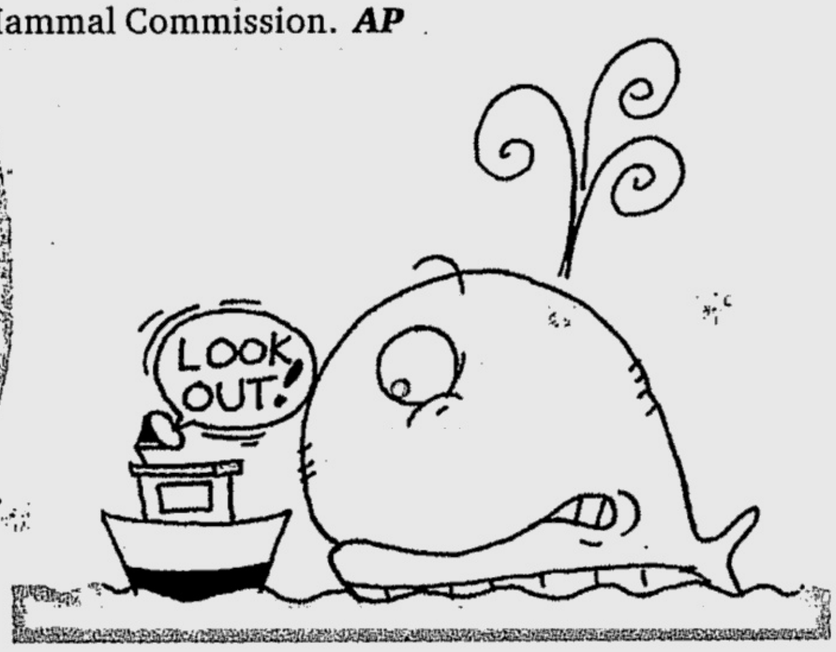
SOME TOURIST! Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gidzenko (top), Italian astronaut Roberto Vittori (center) and South African internet millionaire Mark Shuttleworth wave as they get ready to get into the Soyuz space rocket at Baikonur cosmodrome, April 25. The astronauts blasted off from Russia's Baikonur base (above) in Kazakhstan on for an 8-day visit to the International Space Station. *Reuters*

World Scope



Whale & Ship Collisions

ALTHOUGH only Norway and Japan still hunt whales, the giants of the oceans still face a threat from humans — being struck by ships. Between 20 percent and 35 percent of whales found dead show signs of having been struck by ships, more in some species, recent studies found. Right whales in the western North Atlantic appear to have been especially hard hit. Their population is estimated at 300 to 325, says David W. Laist of the US Marine Mammal Commission. ***AP***

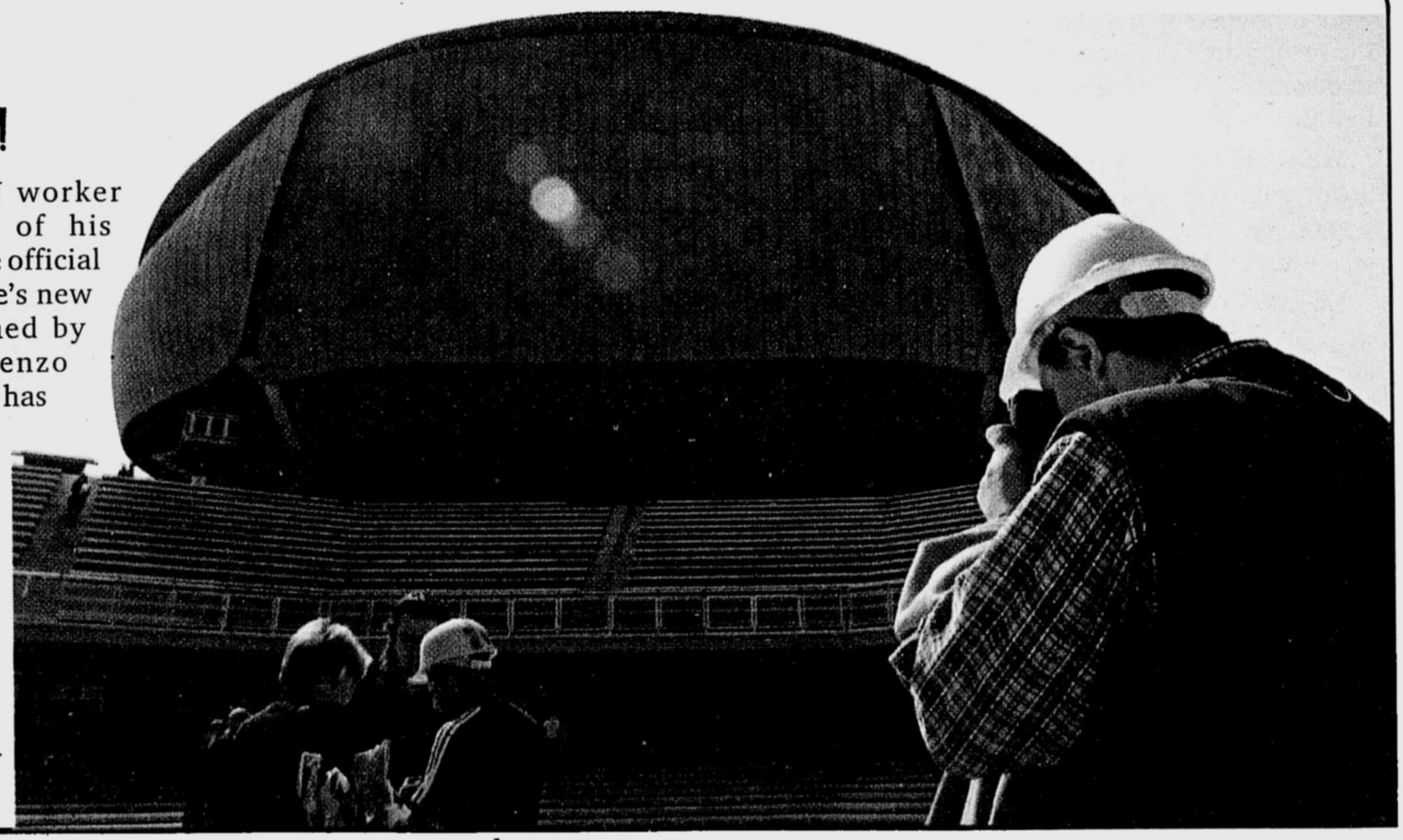


From Tokyo, With Love

MALE panda Ling-Ling sure is popular in Mexico City's Chapultepec Zoo. He's here for five months to meet three potential mates and do his part to save his species from extinction. After that he's going back to his home in Ueno Zoo in Tokyo City. Some lady pandas sure will be sad... ***AP***

All Finished!

A CONSTRUCTION worker takes a snapshot of his colleagues during the official presentation of Rome's new auditorium. Designed by Italian architect Renzo Piano, the auditorium has been under construction since 1995. It includes three concert halls with 2,700, 2,500 and 500 seats and an open-air performance area that will make it the largest complex of this kind in Europe. ***AP***



Workshops

AT THE AYALA MUSEUM. If workshops are your thing, check out Ayala Museum's offerings this month: Beginners' Oil Painting, May 8-June 8; Beginners' Watercolor, May 8-June 8; Sculpture, May 9-May 21; and Basic Drawing, May 9-May 24. Classes will be held in Ayala Museum, 3rd Level of Glorietta II, Makati City. For more details, call up Christy Monastrial at 810-8407.

GREEN ARTISTS. Want to learn art and help save the environment at the same time? Join Young Advocates' "Art for Earth's Sake" summer camp on May 15, 16, and 17 at Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac. Learn basic sketching, finger painting, storytelling, *decoupage* and scrapbook design while breathing fresh countryside air! For more info, call Joel at 844-7047 or email young_advocates@hotmail.com.

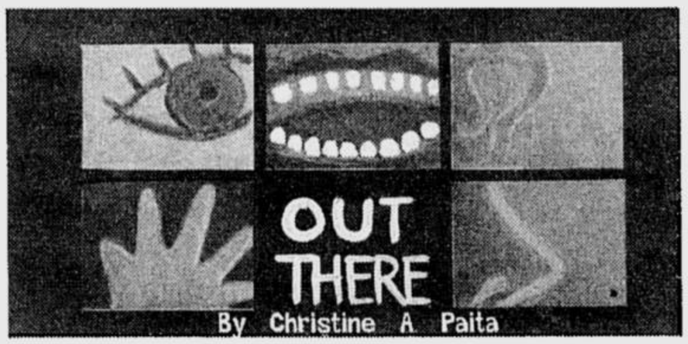
ART PACK. Art Pack offers a 2-in-1 promo kiddie package for kids ages 7 to 15 years old. Learn to make decorative picture frames, fridge magnets, and other creative ornaments out of clay. Paint finishing techniques like stenciling, stamping and hand painting. Classes start on May 13 at True Value, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell, Makati. For details and reservations, call Annie at 899-1985, 895-2318 or 0917-7934229.

FOR WRITERS. What's your writing style? Find out in Tower Book House's writing workshop for children and young adults this May. The workshop will tackle essay writing, feature writing, journalism, short story writing, play writing, and reviews of books, movies, and concerts. Children 9 to 18 years old are invited to join. For more info on the new schedule, call up 815-4938, 815-6925, or 0918-9159337.

POSITIVE ART. The Positivism Summer Art Workshop by E.R. Tagle now accepts students of all ages who wish to learn basic drawing and painting. Learn these using pencil, charcoal, watercolor, pastel and mixed media. Registration is ongoing at the E.R. Tagle Gallery at 1144 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City. Call up 816-0904 or 0917-9726223 for details.

Contests

RECYCLING ART. Museo Pambata, together with Tetra Pak Philippines, invites children ages 8 to 13 to join "Sa Basura, May Magagawa Ka Pa!", an on-the-spot recycling art contest. The contest is open to teams of two kids who can create useful or decorative products out of used tetra packs. For interested parties, please register at the Museo Pambata office or call up 523-1797 to 98 during office hours. Deadline of registration is on May 9.



Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

HEY SPIDEY! Check out the following Spider-Man art activities happening at SM malls this May: a Spider-Man wallpaper contest, May 10 at SM Megamall (open to all high school and college students)and the Spider-Man poster-making and coloring contests, May 5 at SM City Fairview, May 10 and 11 at SM Megamall. The contests are open to artists ages 12-18 years old for the poster-making contest and 3 to 11 years old for the coloring contest. For inquiries, call Empire International at 722-4311and 721-3629 or e-mail at empire @mozcom.com.

Ayala Cinema also invites you to join its Spider-Man Drawing Contest, with the theme "Spider-Man Fighting Crime in Manila." Kids ages 5 to 12 years old may join the contest. For inquiries call up 817-5670.

ESSAY/POEM WRITING. In celebration of its 62nd Anniversary on May 26, the Girl Scouts of the Philippines (GSP) will hold a nationwide on-the-spot essay/poem writing contest. The contest is open to all Junior, Senior, and Cadet Girl Scouts. GSP will also hold a visual art activity, open to Twinklers and Stars. The 62 best entries for writing and visual arts will be compiled in a book. For more info call up 523-8331 to 42.

Places

KIDZ STATION. Kidz Station offers parents and kids a fun trip in the toy store as kids learn and interact while shopping for toys! Kids can watch their favorite cartoon shows, explore a mini-jungle and playground, or join exciting games. Discover the fun at Kidz Station in the following malls: Alabang Town Center, Filinvest Mall Alabang, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Power Plant Mall at Rockwell, Makati; Ayala Center in Cebu City; Robinson's Place, Novaliches; Robinson's Place, Iloilo; Robinson's Place, Imus, Cavite; and the new Robinson's Metro East Mall in Pasig City.

MAGIC & LIGHTS. Be wowed at Enchanted Kingdom! There's a fireworks competition this evening at 7 p.m. and the Jeff Simon "World of Magic" show at 3 and 6 p.m. EK is located at Sta, Rosa, Laguna.

Exhibit

STRANGE OLD STUFF. Visit the "Treasures at Ayala Museum" exhibit. It features some of the museum's finest historical pieces from its archaeological, ethnographic, and fine arts collections. Among the exhibited pieces are ivory sculptures, paintings by Juan Luna, Fernando Amorsolo, and Fernando Zobel. There are also examples of stone tools, artifacts from the Cordilleras and Mindanao, and jewelry from the Spanish colonial period. The exhibit will run until July 31, 2002, Tuesdays to Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. For more information, ring up Marives Pedraja at 812-1191 local 103.

Out/p. 4

Masks and Kings

WELL, this is one book for kids with itchy fingers. "Gawa Tayo: Origami at mga Maskara" is one of few books I know that a reader is really meant to cut up! There are patterns for masks and little paper animals inside. All you need to do is snip along the dotted lines and follow the folding instructions.

Iggy Ipis
BOOK REVIEWS

Presto! You've got toys inspired from Adarna House's best-selling story books: "Ang Barumbadong Bus"; "Si Pilandok"; "Itim na Kuting"; "Si Pagong at si Matsing"; "Si Daginding"; "Si Langgam at si Tipaklong"; and "Barumbadong Bus."

"The Greatest King" is an interesting book mostly because it is published in the Philippines and its illustrator, Jerry Yu Ching, is a Disney animator.

Browse through its pages and it feels like you're watching a Disney movie.

Written by Mike Onghai, "The Greatest King" is about a really spoiled young prince with a bad attitude. He gets sent away from the kingdom by his father, the King. Bratty prince then gets to meet Forest King, Pleasure King and the King of Strength. But they all tell him they aren't the greatest king. Who's the greatest king? Find out when you read the book.

"Gawa Tayo" is perfect for kids ages 3-7. Check it out at your favorite bookstores. "The Greatest King" is published by the Jesuit Communications Foundation, Inc. and Web Cartoons LLC.

For inquiries, call Jesuit Communications at 4265971 and Adarna House at 3723548 to 49.

Out (from page3)

Event

MOTHER'S DAY GIMMICK. Parents and little ones, spend Mother's Day weekend with games, fashion shows and product giveaways at the 7th Everything for Babies and Kids Trade Fair (EFBKTF) 2002. There will also be children's shows, raffle draws, and a special Mother's Day celebration. The fair will run from May 9 to 12 at the Megatrade Hall 3, Bldg. B, SM Megamall. For more info call up Visions at 687-7704 or 687-7694.

Cable Picks

A TOONY MOTHER'S DAY. Celebrate Mother's Day with Cartoon Network's showcase of half-hour cartoon shows featuring cartoon land's beloved moms from May 6 to 11. Watch "mama" Bunny Bravo, Dexter and Dee Dee's mom, Wilma Flintstone, and Jane Jetson in your favorite cartoon shows. Spend the tooniest Mother's Day with your mom on May 12 with a three-hour Mother's Day marathon.

Spaced (from page 1)

defunct Mir station, might endanger himself and the ISS.

Shuttleworth is considered by many experts as purely a tourist passenger, despite being set to carry out scientific experiments on board, including HIV and genetics tests.

But the fees paid by Tito and Shuttleworth are vital to Russia's cash-starved space program. The price tag on a single tourist seat almost covers the cost of a Soyuz launch.

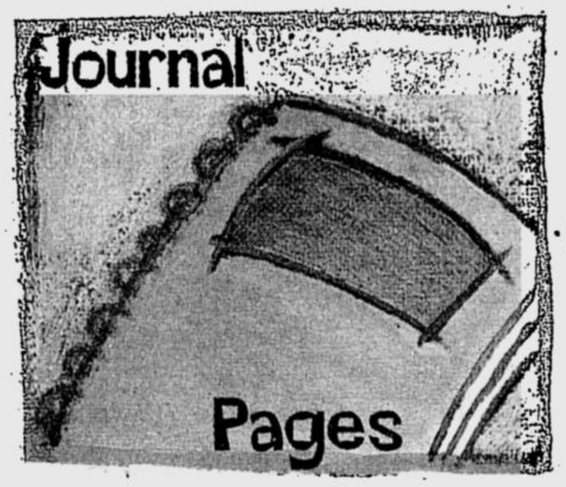
In a pep talk through a glass screen as Shuttleworth donned his space suit, training official Pyotr Klimuk said: "You can't turn back now. This is it, Mark. Everything is ready to go."

As Shuttleworth boarded the Soyuz with his colleagues, he waved and blew a kiss to his family and supporters.

Onlookers, many carrying the South African flag, burst into applause after nine minutes as the ship shed its booster rockets and went into orbit.

The launch took place from Launch Pad One —where the Soviet Union's Yuri Gagarin blasted off on his pioneering space flight in April 1961.

In the audience at the launch was the first woman in space, Valentina Tereshkova. ***Reuters***



Chronicles of a Grade School Karateka

By Qara Maristella Bacalla Clemente
St. Paul College, Pasig

SOMETIMES, I ask myself, "How did I get into this mess in the first place?" Now that I've been upgraded to a higher belt, my question is still unanswered. Yet despite my nebulous anxieties, I find myself faithfully going to our designated training area practice after practice.

Most people think that *Karate* is just about wearing some Japanese *ninja* costume to hit each other and shout, "Hiiiyaaa!" That's a common misconception. Then there are people who see me in my *kimono* who come up to me and ask, *"Ay, nagtà-Tae Kwon Doh ka pala!"* Another common mistake.

I try and explain to them that *tae kwon do* and *karate* are two different things, but why bother? *"Pareho lang naman sila eh."* Is the answer I often get. I know that there is a deeper meaning to this martial art, as in all other martial arts. No matter how corny, cheesy or crappy this might sound, martial arts are not merely for self-defense. They give the artist self-discipline. My teacher, or *Sensei,* says we must use everything we learn in practical application. Everything that we've learned is worthless if we don't know how to apply it in different situations.

I may not have realized the true meaning of this martial art just yet, and I may have not mastered every move that was taught to me, but what I know is this: though I am still a beginner, I make the best out of every session and do things the best I can.

This is a lesson not only learned and practiced in *Karate* but also in everyday life. I make the most of everything, giving space for constructive criticism and learning from my mistakes. It's just like the lessons you learn from school subjects. You make mistakes, then you learn. And not only do you learn, you become a better person.

Sound Familiar ?

Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

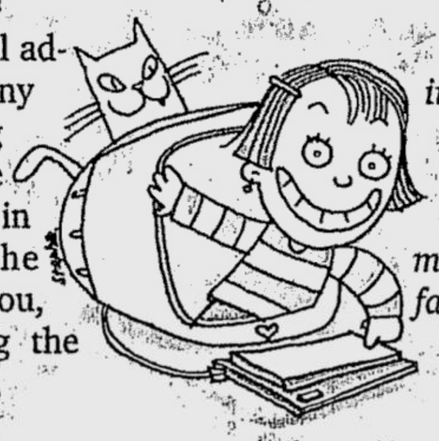
You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!

The Surfer

DEAR Editor,

Hello! I'm a huge fan of JI. I'd like to share one of my hobbies with you. I love surfing the Internet! It's really fun!

You can make your own e-mail address at Yahoo!, Hotmail and many more. I like visiting sites of young actors, especially Daniel Radcliffe and Rupert Grint. They are actors in the film "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone." How about you, Ms. Editor? Do you like surfing the Internet?—**ANGELICA DOLOR,**
Assumption Antipolo



DEAR Angelica,

*Hello! I like surfing too. I usually visit www.amazon.com to check out new books and read some reviews. I also use the Internet to access late-breaking news, some of which could be perfect to feature in Junior Inquirer. But most of all, I really appreciate e-mail because it helps me keep in touch with friends and family who live far away.—**The Editor***

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FOR or By KIDS

A Daddy Poem

BY ZARAH GRACE CALIMAG-GAGATIGA
ILLUSTRATIONS BY REDGE ABOS

One day my classmate John was bragging
About this new watch that his Daddy
bought him
It was blue, silver, gold and shining
I can't help but say, "Amazing!"

He says his Daddy loved him so
That's why his things are never old.
He always has something new
Toys, books, CDs and clothes
in current hues.

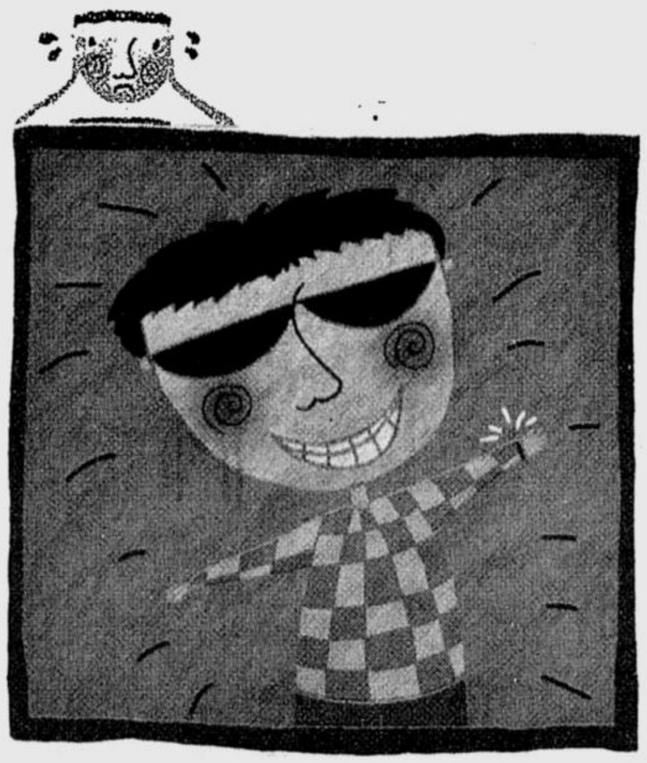
His Daddy works in a bank in Makati
Indeed, his Daddy earns a lot of money.
His Daddy wears a coat and a tie
His Daddy drives a fast and fancy car.

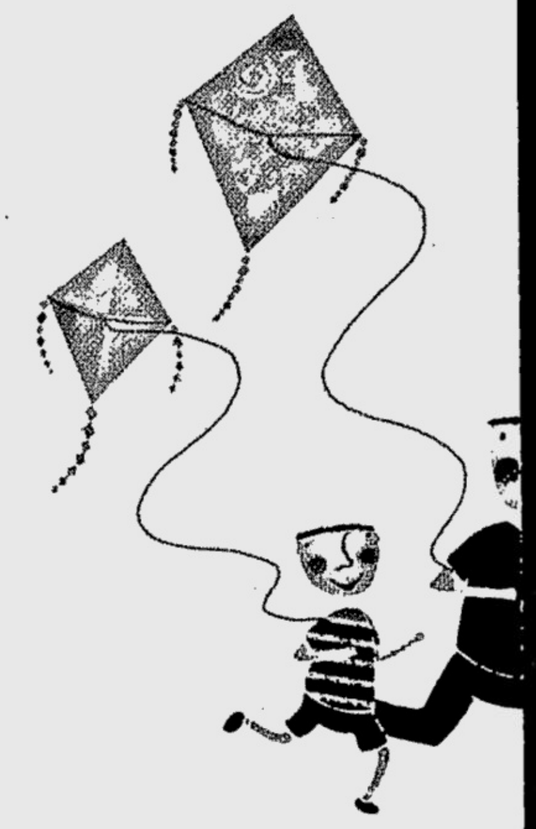
I wish I had a Daddy like John's
Who has millions in his bank account
But then again, I've got second thoughts
It's the things my Daddy does that
counts the most

He helps me with my homework
And checks them every night
To see if I am learning
From what is wrong and what is right.

He reads me stories from a book
Or tells me jokes he knew from
his childhood
He taught me how to fly a kite
He dressed my wound when I fell
off my bike

At all times he reminds me
Not to become a sissy

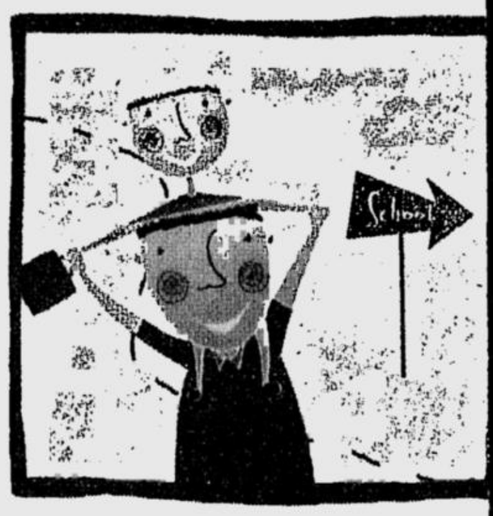




To stand up for myself
When teased by the school bul

He plays the guitar and sings to
When she is sad, tired or very l
He never forgets to say a praye
That God may bless
and keep us every day

He sends me to and picks me u
from school
My Daddy is real! My Daddy is
These things he does mean mo
Where else can I find a fun and l



Zarah *is a school librarian in Xavier School. She is happily married and has two kids, Nico, 5 and Zoe, 1. She hopes to learn ho a car this summer,*

Redge *is a member of Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan. She's done illustrations for People Asia magazine and Seventeen Philippi now, Redge is the officer for Design and Promotions at the Konrad Adenauer Center for Journalism at the Ateneo de Manila in Quezon City.*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

y

my Mom
onesome.

cool!
e to me
ving Daddy?

v to drive

nes. Right
University

Ang Tunay na Pag-Ibig

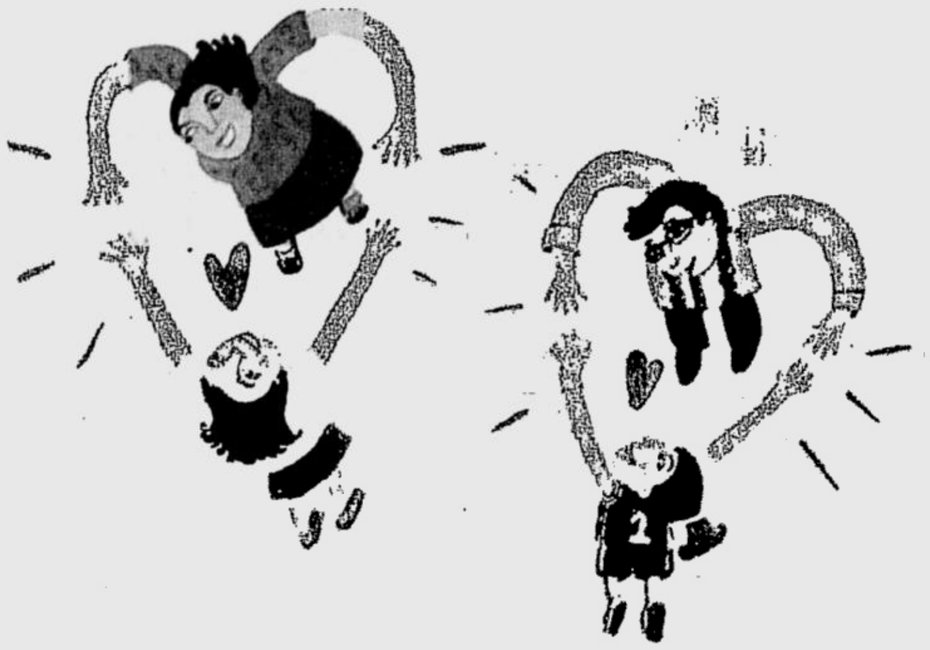
Ni Monica Lualhati
Guhit ni Joanne de Leon

Ang aking tunay na pag-ibig,
Sa iyo ko lang ibibigay;
Aking minamahal na nanay,
Kapiling ko buong buhay.

Mula sa aking pagkasilang,
Ikaw ay aking kinagisnan;
Kayong magkasama ni Tatay,
Sa akin ay laging nakabantay.

Sa piling ninyo'y puno ng tuwa,
Ako ay lumaking masaya;
Minsan ay napapagalitan,
Ngunit kayo'y di nagpabaya.

Salamat mahal na magulang.
Sa iyong tunay na pagmamahal.
Ang batang ito ay mapalad,
At natutunan niyang magmahal.



*Si **Monica** ay nag-aaral sa St. Benedict's College, Alabang. Si **Joanne** ay isang premyadong ilustrador. Siya ay miyembro ng Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan.*

Paalala ng Aklat

Ni Luis G. Asuncion
Guhit ni Steph Bravo

Ikinalat mo na naman
ang mga aklat sa daan
lagi mong kinakalimutan
ang mga paalala ng laybraryan,
Ibalik sa pinagkuhanan
sa tamang lalagyan,
mga aklat sa aklatan
ay dapat alagaan.
Isipin mo kaibigan
at iyong pakatatandaan
mga aklat sa aklatan
pag nawala ay malaking kawalan.

*Si **Luis**, 24, ay isang freelance writer. Siya ay kasalukuyang librarian sa Diliman Preparatory School at hindi niya bati 'ang mga hindi maingat sa libro!*

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BATCHMATES. Siblings and sometime classmates, Syoti and Kathi enjoy doing things together.

HEY, CLASSMATE!

What would happen if your bro or sis was your classmate?

BY ELINE SANTOS

HOW many of you have a brother or sister in the same grade level as you are?

Katherine and Kristoffer Young aren't twins. But they've been in the same grade level ever since and have even been in the same section twice.

"Kathi" and "Syoti" agree that they don't really mind it when they are classmates.

"But it's probably better if we're not," ten-year-old Kathi says.

"*Palagi kaming tie ni ate*, pero ok lang 'yon," 9-year-old Syoti adds.

KATHI smiles for the camera.

Well, brother and sister definitely enjoy doing stuff together. When they grow up, they still plan to be in each other's hair.

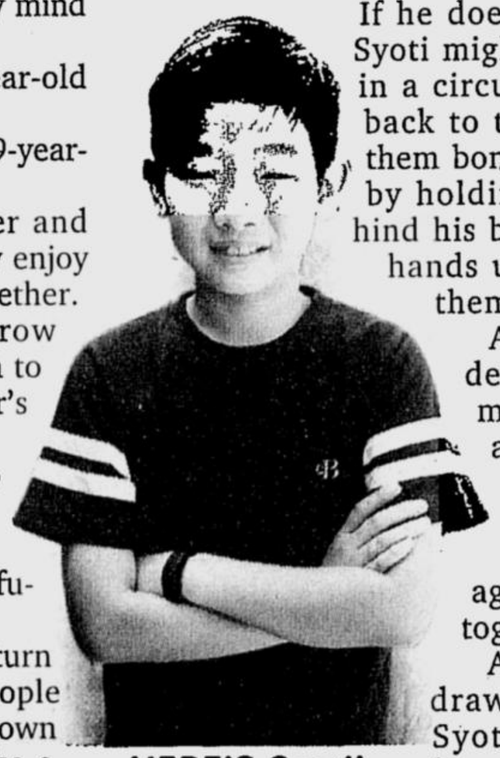
Syoti wants to be an architect and Kathi wants to be the interior designer for his brother's creations.

Big is how the Young siblings describe their future houses.

"Big and beautiful," Syoti smiles as his eyes turn into tiny slits above rosy cheeks. "So many people can live there," he explains. If he could have his own house now, this architect wannabe would like a two-story house made of glass.

"I will beautify the interior of the houses that he will design," says his future co-builder. Kathi is a Power Puff fan and likes colored pencils but she also paints using watercolor, oil and pastel.

They tied for second honor last school year. "We have the same teacher at home...*si* Mama," he says and adds that his dad sometimes helps them to.



HERE'S Syoti!

If he doesn't get into architecture, Syoti might qualify as a rubber man in a circus. His left finger can flex back to touch his left arm. "I call them bone tricks." He demonstrates by holding his hands together behind his back, and then bringing his hands up front without loosening them!

Aside from being a good student, Kathi plays the organ, makes her own paper dolls, and teaches her friends how to paint.

Sometimes the siblings do fight but then they make up again by playing and drawing together.

As they dream, study, and draw together now, Kathi and Syoti may yet build big and beautiful houses together in the future.

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a **free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!**

Kids 'r' rrific nomination form

I nominate:_____
_____
_____
_____Age:____

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

She/he lives at _____
_____
_____

and studies at_____
_____
_____

Her/his contact number is:_____
_____

Sender's Name: _____
_____

Sender's Age & School:_____
_____
_____

Sender's Address:_____
_____
_____

Sender's Contact No._____
_____
_____

A WRITER, TOO. Eleanor won a Palanca award for her children's story, "Kung Bakit Espesyal si Tatay." She likes American actor Nicolas Cage a lot and wants to learn how to play the violin.

Healthful living, healing work

by Eline Santos

If Eleanor Yu was a color on God's palette, He must have taken a large amount of love for life and mixed it with a talent for making pictures and putting words together. Then He sprinkled healing into the mix for good measure... and voila! A recipe for art that heals.

"Sickness is not only limited to the physical," Eleanor says. "A person can be emotionally or spiritually or psychologically sick."

Eleanor had been giving summer art workshops to gifted and special kids before she volunteered to be an art therapist for cancer patients in 1998. Today, art workshops for the terminally ill is just a part of what she does.

With a vision to care for the world through art, Eleanor put up Visual Communication Foundation. With help from her fellow artists and friends, VISCOMM now also reaches out to street children, rape and incest survivors, people with HIV and AIDS, and paraplegics, among others. Everything they do she says is out of respect for life.

As an art therapist, Eleanor is the first to experience the positive effect of creating. "I am the first to be healed," she testifies. "I do what I enjoy, otherwise I would be fragmented when I should be whole."

So she paints, paints, paints and paints. "How can I deal with emotionally sick people if I am emotionally sick?" she asks. "I take care of myself."

She practices her love of life through a healthful lifestyle: she eats vegetables and goes to bed early. Losing beloved workshop participants to cancer or other sickness is painful and sad.

Eleanor says a deep spirituality sustains her through tough moments. "I'm not the type to brood. I'm living my life in the here and now."

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate _____.

He/She is _____ years old and is my_____.

Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:

1)_____;

2)_____;

3)_____;

4)_____;

5)_____.

My nominee lives at_____

_____.

Give him/her a call at _____

or send him/her an e-mail at _____

_____.

By the way, I'm _____

_____.

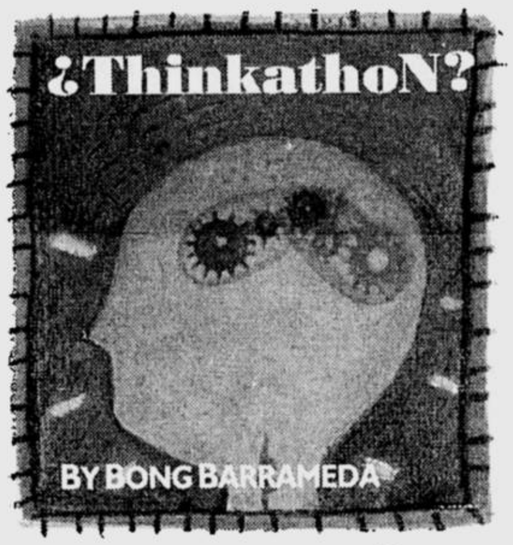
I'm_____ years old.

My address is_____

_____.

You may call me at_____

_____.



Classic Endings

YOUR knowledge of a dozen classic novels is, literally, on the line in today's test. In each number, pick the word or phrase that correctly completes the title of the famous work by its equally celebrated author.

1. "Around the World in ____" by Jules Verne
   - A. 70 Days
   - B. 80 Days
   - C. 90 Days
2. "The Count of Monte ____" by Alexander Dumas
   - X. Dame
   - Y. Cristo
   - Z. de Piedad
3. "Journey to the Center of the ____" by H. G. Wells
   - A. Earth
   - B. Universe
   - C. Brain
4. "A Tale of Two ____" by Charles Dickens
   - X. Men
   - Y. Friends
   - Z. Cities
5. "The Call of the ____" by Jack London
   - A. Wild
   - B. Bird
   - C. Wind
6. "Pride and ____" by Jane Austen
   - X. Power
   - Y. Passion
   - Z. Prejudice
7. "Robinson ____" by Daniel Defoe
   - A. Crusoe
   - B. Swiss
   - C. Galleria
8. "War and ____" by Leo Tolstoi
   - X. Peace
   - Y. Remembrance
   - Z. Conquest
9. "The Prince and the ____" by Mark Twain
   - A. Princess
   - B. Pauper
   - C. Dragon
10. "Little House on the _____" by Laura Ingalls Wilder
    - X. Farm
    - Y. Hill
    - Z. Prairie
11. "The Lion, the Witch and the _____" by C. S. Lewis
    - A. Wizard
    - B. Wardrobe
    - C. Willow
12. "Catcher in the _____" by J. D. Salinger
    - X. Field
    - Y. Hay
    - Z. Rye

Answers :

1. 80 Days 7. Crusoe
2. Cristo 8. Peace
3. Earth 9. Pauper
4. Cities 10. Prairie
5. Wild 11. Wardrobe
6. Prejudice 12. Rye

Ratings :

11-2

8 - 10

5 - 9

SHIRLEY'S PETS by robert magnuson

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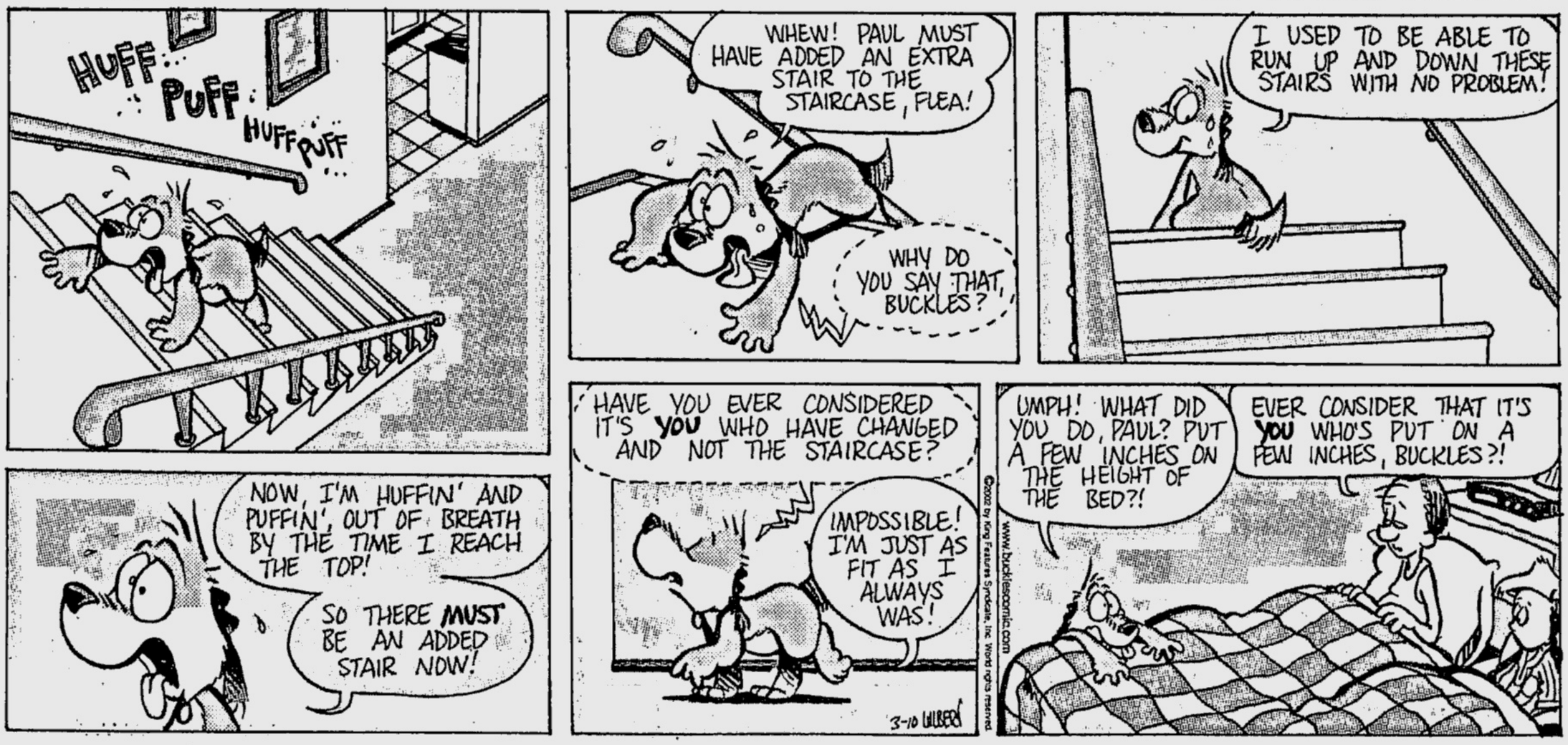
BUCKLES BY DAVID GILBERT



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AT SM DEPARTMENT STORE

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